

[Full quote list from the BGA business letter signatories](#)

Stephen Woodford, Chief Executive, Advertising Association, said:

“Our industry is committed to hitting net zero for its operations by end 2030 and to do everything in its power to support the government's ambitions of building a net zero economy, given advertising's role as a key engine of the economy. COP26 is a critical moment for all of us in the UK, industry and government, to deliver everything we can to create effective action on the issue of climate change, both domestically, but also around the world as we share knowledge and learnings with our international peers.”

Jon Dye, Chief Executive, Allianz, said:

“There is no more questioning the climate urgency and Allianz is already supporting the net-zero transition. If the UK government takes the right decisions now, the investments and policies we're rolling out as a business will have an even greater impact on protecting our planet's future.”

Peter Simpson, CEO, Anglian Water, said:

“The government can be reassured that UK businesses share its ambition to deliver net zero transition at pace. In the water sector, for example, we're committed to delivering net zero by 2030 and delivering it in a way that supports our communities and the environment.”

“At Anglian Water we've made huge progress on decarbonisation since 2010, with a track record and a routemap so credible that, in a world first, we've secured £300 million of sustainability-linked finance tied to achieving our net zero goals.

“And we recognise, too, that in parallel with mitigation, we need to adapt our infrastructure, so that our communities and our environment can thrive. That's why we're creating our flagship strategic pipeline, up to 500km long, to carry water from areas of relative abundance right through to the south and east where water is already scarce. Our plans are ambitious, because they need to be.

“We're determined to play our part in transitioning at pace to a sustainable future. Just how quickly we'll get there depends in part on clarity of direction and a joined-up approach from government. So I join my voice with my fellow signatories in offering our wholehearted support for bold, transformative action as we head towards COP26.”

Stuart McLachlan, CEO, Anthesis Group, said:

"All eyes will be on Scotland in November as it hosts COP26, the most significant climate change conference since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015. The expected consequence of COP26 is a necessary and renewed focus on ambitions and targets.”

Jack Harvie-Clark, Director, Apex Acoustics Ltd, said:

“We cannot afford to wait any longer. None of us cannot afford further inaction.”

James Wimpenny, Chief Executive, BAM Construct UK Ltd, said:

"Lower carbon buildings and infrastructure are starting to be created, but the built environment sector must move further and faster. COP26 is the opportunity to remove more carbon from our economies more quickly, and we are committed to working with government and industry to make the long-term changes needed."

Ian Parish, Interim Managing Director, BAM Nuttall, said:

"The UK has arguably led the world on the removal of fossil fuels from its energy mix, and decarbonisation of its economy. But to limit warming to 1.5C and meet net zero carbon by 2050, we must aim higher and work harder, collaborating across government and industry, with increasing focus on decarbonising heating, cooling and transport. The UK has much to share and more to learn, and COP26 is the catalyst for global climate action that will see a real step change in realising substantial emission reductions."

Matthew Wilson, Group CEO, Brit Insurance, said:

"Urgent action on climate is imperative and we are already seeing the impact of climate change on people, communities and economies through the increased frequency and severity of natural catastrophes. It is only through ambitious policy measures and strong private sector support that we will be able to achieve the change needed. On behalf of Brit, I express our firm commitment to, and support for, transformative climate action."

Chris Oglesby, CEO, Bruntwood, said:

"COP26 provides us with the opportunity to accelerate much needed action to reach net zero and for the UK to stand out as a global leader in addressing the climate crisis. Bruntwood has taken its own steps towards climate leadership by setting an ambitious Net Zero Carbon target and has a clear roadmap to achieve this. It is crucial that we all work together to drive strong climate action and do not lose the momentum we have gained over the last few years."

Amanda Mackenzie OBE, Chief Executive, Business in the Community, said:

"The need for strong leadership in tackling the climate crisis has never been as important as it is now, and business knows the role it has to play. Together, we can bring our collective strength to support the Government's climate action agenda and help achieve the COP26 targets. We believe in collaborative action to tackle the climate crisis and business is ready to be part of the solution."

Martin Garratt, CEO of Cambridge Cleantech and Executive Director of Oxfordshire Greentech, said:

"The IPCC report is a stark reminder for governments and businesses to take decisive action and to back up the lofty targets they have set with concrete next steps. And while the forecast is gloomy, let us not forget that we also have the chance to drastically change course over the next decade if we act today. One of the key ways to do this is to stand behind low carbon technologies which have the potential to bring down global emission levels. We have the solutions, what we now need is the political will to ensure they are implemented effectively."

Paul Margetts, Chairman of the UK Country Board, Capgemini UK plc, said:

“The climate crisis is real and never before has the case for action been so tangible with extreme weather events becoming a seemingly weekly occurrence. At Capgemini, we are committed to becoming net zero by 2030 whilst also supporting our clients on their net zero journeys. But responding to climate change requires cross sector collaboration at scale, and we are counting on the UK government to lead COP26 in creating the transition framework the world needs.”

Ray Upjohn, Chief Executive, Chapman&Cutler, said:

“COP26 has to be the catalyst for major change. As an organisation responsible for delivering a more sustainable built environment, we have declared a climate emergency and ingrained this ethos into our core values, but we all need to do so much more.”

Tim Rook, CMO, Clade Engineering Systems, said:

“We are investing in people, technology and products that are supporting our customers in realising their carbon reduction ambitions. Whilst market interest is rising everyday the vital missing ingredient is strong leadership and an ambitious climate action plan for the UK from our Government.”

Stephen Moorhouse, Vice President and General Manager, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners GB, said:

"Like other leading businesses we have committed to becoming a Net Zero business by 2040 and will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions across our value chain by 30% by 2030. We know this will be a challenging journey, which is why we are encouraging the UK Government to create the right policy framework in which we - and others - can continue to take the right actions on climate."

Tim Attwood, Managing Director, Conisbee, said:

“The planet is facing an accelerating catastrophe. Only strong and brave leadership coupled with creative innovation will prevent its worst affects.”

Dougie Sutherland, Group CEO, Cory, said:

“The UK had led the world on climate action and COP26 is another opportunity to demonstrate this. Now, more than ever, is the time for us to show strong leadership with ambitious domestic climate action.”

Maxine Mayhew, Managing Director – Natural Resources, Costain, said:

“A holistic and systems based approach to transitioning critical national infrastructure will be key to the UK achieving net zero. Collectively assessing infrastructure programmes across sectors, supply chains and communities will realise the greatest opportunities to reduce carbon cost effectively and bring wider benefits to people and the planet. Government regulation that aligns carbon KPIs across all organisations, driving greater consistency of ambition and transparency of carbon data, will enable the different sectors to accelerate collaborating in this way.”

Steve Foots, CEO, Croda International plc, said:

"As a UK headquartered business committed to becoming Climate, Land and People Positive by 2030, we fully support the position taken by the UK Government as a climate leader. Working in

partnership with the UK Government and other leading organisations in business and finance, now is the time for us to convert ambitious climate goals into action and drive emission reduction programs through the UK economy and our supply chains.”

Sir Nigel Knowles, CEO, DWF Plc, said:

“To avoid irreversible damage to our societies, economies and the natural world, setting ambitious science based targets must be our shared priority if we are to hold temperature rises to no more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. We recognise our role in supporting the transition to a net zero economy and aim to lead by example in our own operations.”

Stuart Lemmon, CEO Northern Europe, EcoAct, an Atos Company, said:

“The bottom line is that this decade represents our last chance to implement climate policies to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. We support strong governance and robust strategies that will drive the action needed to protect the environment for future generations.”

Colin Matthews, Non-Executive Chairman, EDF in the UK, said:

“COP26 in November will be a significant moment for the UK to demonstrate its ambitious commitment to Net Zero on a global stage and drive international momentum as we rebuild following the pandemic. Now more than ever we understand that our objective both at home and abroad must be helping to enable robust economies to deliver carbon reduction targets alongside increased resilience against future risks.”

James Brueton, CEO, EnviroBuild, said:

“The IPCC's 6th Assessment Report warns we have entered a 'code red for humanity', we know we need to act urgently to stop more climate destruction and make the right decisions for future generations. We are urging the prime minister to foster an ambitious strategy from government with a clear timetable, detailed policy measures, market mechanisms and messaging on a sector-by-sector basis. The government must be the leading force in bringing the UK to net zero.”

Emmanuelle Spriet, CEO, E-Voyages, said:

“It's now time to press forward with bold and innovative solutions that will deliver on our climate protection commitments. We stand ready to support all initiatives to transform the travel industry into a sustainably rich and engaging set of experiences utilising carbon neutral strategies as well as transformative engagement platforms.”

Rich Speak, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Finance Earth, said:

“The planet is dying. Massive investment is needed to stop the decline – and more still to reverse it. Public spending and philanthropy alone cannot meet this need – the sector desperately needs private investment in addition to significant increases in existing funding streams. The UK has the unique opportunity to lead the growth of a global Nature Investment Market (Natural Capital, Conservation and Restoration Finance) at COP26, building on its work to date in leading the development the Global Social Investment Market.”

Andy Bord, Chief Executive, Flood Re, said:

“As the UK assumes global leadership in tackling climate change at COP26, we must act now to protect our communities from the devastation caused by the effects of a warmer climate.

“The UK knows only too well the damage that flooding can cause, and with the global temperatures set to exceed 1.5c of warming within the next 20 years* urgent steps must be taken to reach net zero.

“We also have to act now to adapt to the climate of the future. This means we must have a planning system that takes account of flood risk, the future insurability of homes, and that when homes are repaired after flooding we build them back better to ensure they are more resilient to future floods.”

*IPCC report 9 August 2021”

Ian Wright, Chief Executive, Food and Drink Federation, said:

“COP 26 offers a pivotal moment for business to get real about holistic sustainability strategies. The FDF will shortly publish its handbook for food and drink manufacturers on the path to Net Zero. It demonstrates that ever stronger collaboration with stakeholders across the farm to fork supply chain is the only possible choice if we are to achieve our net zero ambitions.”

Basil Demeroutis, Managing Partner, FORE Partnership, said:

“We’re now experiencing real-world consequences of the climate emergency. Without the decisive, co-ordinated action required to bring down carbon emissions, these will become much worse, not in 10 or 20 years, but in the very near future. There is no time left for further delay or half measures. We need strong leadership and firm action at COP26 to tackle what is an existential threat to our planet.”

James Raynor, CEO, Grosvenor Britain & Ireland, said:

“Climate change is cumulative. The longer we wait to address it, the harder it is to solve. And we’ve waited long enough - the world isn’t on track to keep warming below 1.5oC. Protecting Paris’ legacy demands every element of society, particularly governments and businesses, owns the responsibility of protecting our planet now.”

Richard Walker, Managing Director, Iceland Foods, said:

“The UN have declared a Code Red for Humanity and there is no longer any time to waste in taking ambitious action on climate change. I urge our Government to show strong leadership on its Net Zero Strategy advance of COP26, and to use its position on the world stage to drive genuine and ambitious global action.”

Nigel Stansfield, President EAAA, Interface, said:

“We must ensure that COP26 is an effective catalyst towards the delivery of a net zero economy. At Interface, all our products are carbon neutral and we have made a further pledge to be a carbon negative enterprise by 2040. We have committed to use carbon as a regenerative resource and are working toward a Science Based Target. We call on governments and business to go beyond mitigation and to act with speed, scale and ambition to enable climate resilience.”

Stephanie Hyde, Chief Executive, JLL UK, said:

“All eyes will be on the UK to demonstrate climate leadership at COP26, and clear plans are needed to bridge the gap between where businesses are today and where they need to get to in order to realise their net zero carbon goals. With less than two months to go, there needs to be a comprehensive strategy from government to drive the systemic changes needed in this critical decade.”

Roy Bedlow, Chief Executive, Low Carbon, said:

“The UK is a world leader in its commitment to address climate change, however, these laudable goals cannot be achieved through words alone and will need real policies spanning all government departments. Low Carbon is delighted to stand with other UK businesses in supporting and furthering work towards a net zero economy. By generating renewable energy at scale, we are supporting the government to make this a reality”

Johan Slabbert, CEO, MS Amlin Underwriting Limited, said:

“MS Amlin’s Executive team and Board of Directors fully support the need for decisive leadership and urgent climate action to be taken to secure all our futures, both socially and economically. COP26 gives the UK a further opportunity to continue to be a force for good. We cannot act alone and must be united in our efforts and our goals, if we are to prosper as a nation over the long term.”

John Pettigrew, CEO, National Grid, said:

“There is widespread consensus that COP26 is a huge opportunity to accelerate progress on tackling climate change, with the potential to rally the world on the biggest issue of our time. But what governments and business achieve before and after the summit will also be critical in dictating the pace at which we decarbonise and reach a clean energy future.”

Jack Broadley, Founder/Owner, Pelorus Consulting, said:

“Following the most recent UN Report on climate change, and with the UK hosting the COP26 in Glasgow in November it is vital that the UK shows strong leadership and sets clear, 'real world' goals on domestic climate action.”

Sarwar Khan, Director of Government Affairs, Salesforce, said:

“At Salesforce, we believe that business is one of the greatest platforms for change. We're committed to stepping up to the urgent challenge of climate change and help create a sustainable, low-carbon future for all. Salesforce is proud to be a net-zero operations company and deliver a carbon neutral cloud to our customers, and this year we will reach 100% renewable energy.”

Sandy Begbie CBE, Chief Executive, Scottish Financial Enterprise, said:

"We are pleased to sign this open letter to the Prime Minister calling for continued ambition from government to support transformative climate action.

Our sector’s determination to facilitate an accelerated and just transition to net zero was outlined recently in Scotland’s Financial Services Strategy. The UK government has a vital role to play in creating the policy environment that supports our sector and others to make the transition for the

benefit of customers and communities, and we are committed to collaboration that drives these aims forward. COP26 provides a critical opportunity for us to display the global leadership and collaboration required to address the climate and biodiversity emergency.”

Keith Anderson, Chief Executive, ScottishPower, said:

“The recent IPCC report has made it abundantly clear that humans are driving climate change and extreme weather events are on the rise. The case for action is urgent, and stark. In the five years since the Paris agreement, we have transformed our business, investing billions of pounds in renewable energy infrastructure and offering our customers 100% green electricity. The UK’s Net Zero targets are not only exciting in ambition, but also completely achievable. With the right plans in place, we have the knowledge, tools and passion to help build a better future, quicker.”

Paul White, Chief Executive Officer, Sedgwick International UK, said:

“At Sedgwick our values and ethics are founded on one simple belief: that Caring Counts©. We care about how we impact the planet and we understand we have a responsibility to minimise the effects on it of carrying out our business.

We call on those leaders attending COP 26 to show strong leadership and set ambitious domestic climate change targets.”

Peter Duff, Chairperson, Shoosmiths LLP, said:

“As a leading UK law firm with net zero targets, we very much support and are aligned to the aims of COP26. Results cannot be achieved without the cooperation of society as a whole – and we believe businesses will play a huge part in this. As such, we will support the UK Government to deliver the strong leadership required in bringing about the environmental change needed for the planet and future generations.”

Stephen Rouatt, CEO, Signify UK&I, said:

“At Signify, sustainability is in our DNA, and as leaders in the lighting sector, we have a firm commitment to transformative climate action. We are playing our part by going beyond carbon-neutrality and doubling our positive impact on the environment and society by 2025. But, to ensure the success of the UK COP 26 Presidency’s goals and progress towards a net-zero economy, the government needs to show an ambitious strategy, align closely with the private sector and showcase strong leadership globally to bring the necessary change for people, nature and climate.”

Nicola Stopps, CEO, Simply Sustainable, said:

“We must not miss this chance to deliver real global progress; to drive countries and businesses towards a low carbon economy and thereby minimising the full impacts of climate change. We need to act together now, as one.”

Mark Smith, Chief Executive, who chairs Southern Co-op’s Climate Action Group, said:

“We all need to be bolder and accelerate action given the climate emergency. Our own targets provide a vital step on a longer-term pathway to net zero carbon and it is important that governments and businesses step up to the challenge of limiting the growth in global temperatures to no more than 1.5 degrees. Any rise above that level is likely to be increasingly catastrophic and we must, and we will, do our bit to help prevent that happening.”

Sam Peacock, Director of Corporate Affairs and Strategy, SSE, said:

“The need to power change has never been more urgent. SSE strongly supports an ambitious pathway to net zero which can deliver benefits in the form of green jobs, clean industries and revitalised communities.”

David Flood, Managing Director, Statkraft UK, said:

“The UK has led the world in setting a binding 2050 net zero target. Given our nation's leadership role at COP26, we now need to focus on delivery, and clear short term targets for 2030. Government should step up the ambition to enable the low cost potential for expanding onshore wind and solar, and expand green hydrogen production to be used where direct use of renewable electricity isn't practical. For Statkraft, renewables is not a part of the solution - it is the solution.”

Jade Lewis, Chief Executive, Sustainable Energy Association, said:

“As we approach November and the start of COP26, the industry needs to see strong leadership from the Government in the form of an ambitious Heat and Buildings Strategy. To decarbonise our homes whilst simultaneously maximising their energy efficiency will be a challenge, and one that can only be achieved through clear joined up, long term policy.”

Jonathan Kini, Managing Director, TalkTalk, said:

“Business leaders must own the challenge of tackling the climate crisis. Committing to make the change is the first step. Then embed it across the whole business. Climate action really is everyone's business.”

Alistair Allison, Managing Partner, TFT, said:

“As a business helping to create more sustainable and resilient commercial buildings, we support the ambitions of finance, construction and property organisations to build back better. Now, we need strong government leadership to sharpen strategy and align our actions with our national plan for better environmental, economic and social outcomes.”

Tom Druitt, CEO, The Big Lemon, said:

“COP26 is the biggest opportunity we have as a nation of making a global impact in dealing with the climate emergency. We can only take that opportunity if we show strong leadership and ambitious targets to surpass the commitments made in Paris. The eyes of the world are on us, do not let us down.”

Steve Murrells, Chief Executive, The Co-operative Group, said:

“At Co-op we have long recognised the scale of the climate crisis that we're facing and know we must all act further and faster if we're to succeed with aligning to a 1.5-degree pathway. Government has a critical role to play in demonstrating global leadership on the climate crisis, not least because of our UK Presidency at COP26, to deliver a fairer and greener society, environment and economy for all.”

Dave Worthington, Managing Director, Verco, said:

“Verco is a mission driven business. We are proud to be a signatory of the letter coordinated by the UK Business Group Alliance for Net Zero (BGA). We support strong leadership from the UK Government and ambitious domestic climate action ahead of COP26.”

Simon Griffin, Director and Dealer Principal, Watts Truck & Van Limited, said:

"Watts Truck & Van supports strong leadership from the UK Government to implement ambitious climate action ahead of COP26 which aligns with our wider goals to deliver a clean, just recovery, that creates quality employment and builds a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy for the future."