

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Prime Minister  
Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1 2AA

16 November 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of Triodos Bank and the undersigned, I ask you as Prime Minister to support on behalf of the United Kingdom the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, to advocate for it at the COP28 and seek support among other governments, with the aim of reaching broad commitment to further develop a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – are the main drivers of the climate crisis. Yet they are not mentioned once in the Paris Agreement. And although many countries have adopted net-zero goals and emissions phaseout plans, the fossil fuel industry has continued to plan new coal, oil and gas projects, which are approved by the governments and funded by banks and capital markets.

There can be no new investments in oil, gas and coal, said the International Energy Agency.<sup>1</sup> Our window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all is closing rapidly,<sup>2</sup> stated the IPCC. We have only six years left to get to net zero emissions and keep global warming below 1.5C, suggests a new study<sup>3</sup> in Nature. Serious international cooperation is urgently needed now!

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative (fossilfueltreaty.org) is a global effort to foster international cooperation to stop the expansion of fossil fuel exploitation and manage a just transition away from coal, oil and gas to clean, renewable energy. A Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty will complement and help the world meet the goals of the Paris Agreement by providing the frameworks necessary to stop expansion globally and supporting countries to collaborate on an equitable wind down of production and fast track solutions.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/18/no-new-investment-in-fossil-fuels-demands-top-energy-economist>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/resources/spm-headline-statements/>

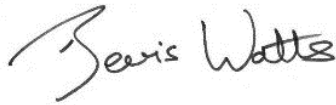
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-023-01848-5>

A Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is the missing legal mechanism to close the gap between net zero ambitions and actually achieving them. It would mitigate the concerns of individual countries about economic repercussions and competitiveness and enable countries to cooperate on phasing out fossil fuels in a just and fair manner. It would incentivise and enforce the finance needed for a just transition away from destructive fossil fuel production. Similar treaties have in the past successfully reduced nuclear weapon arsenals and landmines.

Over 3,000 scientists and academics, 101 Nobel laureates, the World Health Organisation, hundreds of health professionals, thousands of religious institutions, a growing number of Indigenous organisations and youth activists, more than 80 cities and subnational governments and 550 Parliamentarians across the world are calling for an international treaty to phase out fossil fuels and fast track a fair energy transition.

We call on you to do the same on behalf of the United Kingdom. What we do now will determine the emissions in the future and decide upon the liveability of our planet for generations to come. It is time to stop fuelling the climate crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bevis Watts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Bevis Watts, Triodos Bank UK, CEO**

Undersigned by:

Amy Clarke, Co-Founder, Tribe Impact Capital LLP

Ben Tolhurst, Director, Business Declares

Brendan Costelloe, Directory of Policy and Strategy, Soil Association

Dominique Palmer, Climate Justice Activist

Dr Amy McDonnell, Co-Director, Zero Hour

Fiona Egan, People and Impact Lead at Honest Mobile

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

Gareth Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer, Ecology Building Society

Isabel Losada, Author

Jamie Peters, Fossil Free Campaign Lead, Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

Jessica Kleczka, climate psychologist and campaigner

John Elkington, Founder, Volans

Kate Raworth, author of Doughnut Economics  
Louise Kjellerup Roper, CEO, Volans  
Mark Campanale, Founder, Carbon Tracker Initiative  
Lucinda Pitcher, Partner, Altor Wealth Management llp  
Mya-Rose Craig, Black2Nature  
Oliver Sidorczuk, Co-Director, Zero Hour  
Rachel Solomon Williams, Executive Director, Aldersgate Group  
Steve Pyne, Managing Partner, Holden Partners  
Tim Jackson, Director, CUSP, University of Surrey  
Tony Burdon, CEO, Make My Money Matter  
Tori Tsui, Climate Justice Activist

**CC:**

Rt Hon Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP, Minister for Energy Security, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and Ministerial Head of Delegation for the UK at COP28  
Alison Campbell OBE, Lead Climate Negotiator and Deputy Director of International Climate Negotiations and Engagement, Department for Energy Security & Net Zero