

A Call to Support the Climate and Nature Bill

To the Parliamentary candidates for Bristol Central, Bristol East, Bristol North East, Bristol North West, and Bristol South

5 June 2024

Dear Candidates,

We, a collective of Bristol's leading businesses, are writing to you—our candidates in Bristol ahead of the coming Westminster General Election—to ask you to back the [Climate and Nature Bill](#).

The Climate and Nature Bill ('CAN Bill') is new, framework legislation which will provide a joined-up plan to tackle the dual climate and nature crises together, while involving people in a fair way forward. It was reintroduced in the House of Commons on 21 March by Alex Sobel MP, backed by cross-party support. The Bill will lead to multiple benefits for business—something we desperately need here in Bristol—but is also simply the right thing for responsible businesses to be calling for.

We believe that business, in Bristol and across the whole of the UK, has a real opportunity to benefit from the transition to a low-carbon, nature-positive future. In straightforward terms, we believe that the solutions for, and impact of, avoiding the worst effects of climate and nature breakdown are required to enable business, and society, to flourish.

Bristol experienced flooding that wrecked shops in Avonmeads Retail Park and Cabot Circus last year. As local businesses, we are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate-related flooding events, as their frequency continues to rise throughout the UK. We want this to stop.

Climate and ecological breakdown is a governance risk to businesses everywhere. Our supply chains will be even more disrupted by unpredictable and chaotic climate, and the costs to our businesses have the potential to skyrocket due to climate-related weather events or disasters. Moreover, the Green Finance Institute recently reported that the degradation of nature could cause a 12% loss to UK GDP.¹ The CAN Bill can help mitigate this risk to our businesses.

As we so often hear, there is no business on a dead planet. Our companies and their products and services rely on stable value chains many of which depend on nature inputs. The CAN Bill will help reverse the destruction of nature here in the UK, as well as address the damage that the UK causes to nature globally through our ecological footprint overseas.

Equally, the CAN Bill will be good for business in Bristol because of the new opportunities this law will bring. The Bill will:

- Help provide the regulatory framework that business is calling for to get to net zero in the most responsible way, and with the least emissions.
- Bring the huge economic and social benefits of decarbonisation and the restoration of nature—including generating large numbers of new green jobs², reducing energy costs as we switch to clean energy sources, and growing local, sustainable economies.

¹ <https://www.greenfinanceinstitute.com/news-and-insights/assessing-the-materiality-of-nature-related-financial-risks-for-the-uk/>

² <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/employment-skills/green-skills/>

- Help to create a level playing field for all businesses competitively, no matter their size.
- Attract investment, and therefore future opportunities for local prosperity, due to a stable and consistent net zero policy environment.
- Make it easier for business to respond to the call from owners and shareholders for more ambitious action.

To us, the CAN Bill makes simple business sense, and we hope you feel the same. But more than that, it is the right thing to do—business needs to step up and take responsibility for helping us achieve a liveable future for all.

You may hear that there are already laws in place to address environmental and climate breakdown. But they're not fit for purpose. The Climate Change Act 2008 was world-leading at the time, but it doesn't align with the 2015 Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C; it doesn't ensure the UK stays within its fair share of the global carbon budget; and it doesn't factor in emissions associated with imports (which account for almost half of the UK's overall emissions).

Meanwhile the UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth³. The Environment Act 2021 is not strong enough in its ambition—and only aims to halt species loss by 2030, which could see us in a *worse* state in ten years' time. We need to bend the curve and get nature on the pathway to recovery now. When made law, the Climate and Nature Bill would ensure that the UK has a clear road map to both protect our climate, and restore the natural world—our best ally against the impacts of climate change.

That is why we, the undersigned businesses, with a combined local workforce of more than 4,500 and an annual turnover of over £500 million, call on all Bristol candidates to back the Climate and Nature Bill before the coming General Election.

We urge you to listen not just to us, your constituents, but the other 840 organisations, 180 MPs and Peers, 43,000 people, 200 scientists, and 360 councils across the UK also calling for the Climate and Nature Bill to become law.

By backing the CAN Bill you will be playing a vital part in ensuring a bright future for the businesses of Bristol and a happy, healthy, and prosperous future for its people. That's something we would all want to vote for.

Sincerely,

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

Ann Cousins, Associate Director, Climate and Sustainability Services, **Arup**

Phil Houghton MBE, Founder, **Better Food**

Susie Hewson, Founder and Director, **Natracare**

Sam Roberts, CEO & Co-Owner, **Boston Tea Party**

Anna Guyer, Founder, **Greenhouse Communications**

Mike Bevens, Managing Director, **Sawday's**

Arne Ringner, Director, **Bristol Lido**

³ stateofnature.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TP25999-State-of-Nature-main-report_2023_FULL-DOC-v12.pdf

Additional signatories:

Sean Clarke, Managing Director, **Aardman Animations**
Craig White, CEO, **Agile Homes**
Ian Richardson, Director, **APG Architecture**
Steve McNaught, Co-Director, **Arkbound**
Chris Askew, Director, **Askew Cavanna Architects**
Simon Best, CEO, **BaseKit**
Lizzi Testani, Chief Executive Officer, **Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership**
Bruno Scott, **Bruno Scott Consulting**
Andy Hawkins, Founder, **Business On Purpose**
Amy Kington, CEO, **Community of Purpose CIC**
Tom Smart, CEO & Co-Founder, **Counter Culture Drinks**
Jonathan Brigden, Managing Director, **Distortion Studios**
Théo Grainzevelles, Co-Founder & Creative Producer, **Duna Films**
Will Ghali, CEO, **Ecosurety**
Mike Paton, Director, **Engine Shed**
Joss Ford, Founder, **Enviral**
Rich Osborn, Founder & CEO, **Equilibrium Markets**
Joe Papineschi, Chairperson, **Eunomia Research & Consulting**
Andrew Hamilton, Bristol Store Manager, **Finisterre**
Alan Bailey, Managing Director, **Future Leap**
Jonathan Platt, Director, **gcp Chartered Architects**
Emily Hill and Ric Hill, Co-Founders and CEO/CTO, **Ghyston**
Nigel Pocklington, CEO, **Good Energy**
Frances Lucraft, Founder & CEO, **Grace & Green**
Tom Foster, Head of Commercial, **Gravitywell**
Andy Degg, Director, **Green Hat Graphic Design**
Samantha Mant, Director, **Halcyan Water Conditioners**
Kendra Fatcher, Founder, **Hereafter Studio**
Nick Dean, Co-Founder & Director, **HeyFlow**
Christopher Goodfellow, CEO, **Inkwell**
Alastair Donnelly, Co-Founder & Director, **Inside Travel Group**
Russell Jones, Co-Founder, **JonesMillbank**
Sarah King, Founder, **Loafspark**
Stuart Gallemore, Managing Director, **Nameless Media Group**
Steve Butterworth, CEO, **Neighbourly**
Barry Horner, CEO, **Paradigm Norton Financial Planning**
Darwin Peltan, Founder, **Pilot Works**
Sam Reeve, CEO, **Resource Futures**
Rin Hamburgh, Founder, **Rin Hamburgh & Co**
Matt Golding, Founder & Director, **Rubber Republic**
Connor Bryant, Co-Founder & CEO, **Rubbish Ideas**
Sarah Walker Smith, CEO, **Shakespeare Martineau, and Ampa**
Jane Hamlin, Chief Operations Officer & Director of Production, **Silverback Films**
Jo Haywood, Founder, **Skylark Media**
Oliver Lewis, **StoreyBoard Marketing**

John Wright, Head of Bristol office, **Stride Treglown**
Catherine Frankpitt, Managing Director, **Strike Communications**
Amy Hunter, Marketing Manager, **Studio Giggle**
Ben Shorrocks, Managing Director, **techSPARK**
Ed Garrett, Founder & Managing Director, **The Discourse**
Mike Harris, Chief Thief, **The Strawberry Thief**
Nick Hounsfield, Founder, **The Wave**
Matthew Clayton, Managing Director, **Thrive Renewables**
Jaya Chakrabarti DSc (Hons) MBE, Director, **TISCreport.org**
George Ferguson CBE, Founder, **Tobacco Factory Enterprises**
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Jessica Ferrow, Co-Founder, **Twelve Futures**
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Clare Reddington, CEO, **Watershed**
Donna Speed, Chief Executive Officer, **We The Curious**
Joseph Watts, Operations Manager, **Wiper and True**
Jon Bower, Head of Office, **Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP**
Melanie Shufflebotham, Co-Founder & COO, **Zapmap**