

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Leader of the Liberal Democrats
4 Cowley Street
London
SW1P 3NB

07 May 2010

Dear Nick,

Despite the unexpected result in yesterday's General Election, as Chief Executives of major environmental NGOs, we are pleased that a party with such strong policies on climate change and the environment is now potentially in a position to ensure this agenda is at the heart of the new Government.

We urge you to maintain your leadership in this area, by putting the following issues at the centre of any negotiations:

First, your ambition for zero-carbon Britain by 2050 is commensurate with the climate change challenge we face. The targets in your manifesto (40% CO₂ emissions reductions by 2020, and 40% clean energy by 2020) will put us on the right track, which is why we expect you to negotiate hard to ensure they are central to the new Government's agenda. It is also vital that you continue to make the case for green investment, even in the face of demands for urgent action to tackle the deficit. Green investment is a sure-fire way out of recession, and should be maintained.

Second, not only should there be no third runway at Heathrow, but there also needs to be a new aviation policy compatible with the targets in the Climate Change Act and the findings of the Committee on Climate Change on likely improvements in technology; we agree with your position that capacity in UK should remain at current levels.

Third, we welcome your commitment to fight for the "highest level of carbon capture and storage" which would mean an Emissions Performance Standard of 350g/kWh on new electricity generating plant; we consider this sort of legally binding standard crucial to give the market certainty necessary to drive appropriate investment in clean coal technology.

Fourth, with regard to international negotiations we want to see a clear commitment to climate finance beyond the ODA mechanism to support mitigation, adaptation and tropical forest protection in developing countries.

Finally, we welcome the recognition in your manifesto that Britain's natural environment and landscape is vital to quality of life, and the proposals for landscape-scale planning policies and wider planning reform. We hope that the broad cross-party enthusiasm for this agenda will result in a White Paper on nature to identify the policy changes needed to restore our natural environment and ecosystems.



We wish you the best in the days and weeks to come and look forward to working with you over the course of this Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Shaun Spiers Andy Atkins Thomas Lingard.
John Sauven Graham Wynne
David Nussbaum Stephanie Hilborne

Shaun Spiers, Chief Executive, CPRE
Andy Atkins, Executive Director, Friends of the Earth
Thomas Lingard, Deputy Director & Acting Director, Green Alliance
John Sauven, Executive Director, Greenpeace
Graham Wynne, Chief Executive, RSPB
David Nussbaum, Chief Executive, WWF-UK
Stephanie Hilborne, Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts

Please reply to: Thomas Lingard, Green Alliance, 36 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0RE or tlingard@green-alliance.org.uk