

# Making it count

# 2021

a year of UK leadership  
for climate and nature



Online day of events

**27 November 2020**

Starting at 9.00am

Keynote speech:

**Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP,  
COP26 president**



## Agenda:

### 9.00am: Welcome - Chris Venables - head of politics, Green Alliance

Welcome to the day from Green Alliance's head of politics, **Chris Venables**; introduction to the context and importance of 2021 as a year of action on climate and nature.

He will introduce short video messages from **Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP**, leader of the Labour Party, **Rt Hon Lord Zac Goldsmith**, minister for pacific and the environment at FCDO and Defra, and **Roseanna Cunningham MSP**, cabinet secretary for the environment in the Scottish Government.



**Chris Venables** is the head of politics at Green Alliance. In his role, Chris works to build the political momentum for bold and ambitious political action on the climate and nature crises.



**Sir Keir Starmer** has served as the MP for Holborn and St Pancras since 2015. He is currently the leader of the Labour Party. Before becoming an MP, Sir Keir held the roles of director of public prosecutions as well as head of the Crown Prosecution Service.



**Rt Hon Lord Zac Goldsmith** is the minister for pacific and the environment at FCDO and Defra. His responsibilities include; ocean and Blue Belt, international environment, climate, biodiversity, forestry and biodiversity and illegal wildlife trade.



**Roseanna Cunningham MSP** was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform in May 2016. She has remained a member of the Scottish Parliament from 1999 to present and has been a Committee Convener for the Justice Committee, the Health Committee and the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee.

### 9.15am - What has 2020 meant for climate and nature action?

2020 has been an extraordinary year. The devastation of Covid-19 has starkly highlighted our relationship with nature. As well as the pandemic, wildfires and floods in many countries, and the unprecedented loss of glacial ice, mean that the impacts of climate change are now being felt right across the globe. The UN General Assembly, the Leaders' Summit on Biodiversity and the US election all put climate and nature centre stage, but the UN summits on biodiversity (COP15) and climate (COP26) were postponed to 2021.

What can we expect from the landmark events taking place in 2021? Join us for this opening panel discussion where we will hear reflections on the events of 2020 and what it all means for the future.

Speakers: **Charlie Ogilvie**, **Sandrine Dixson-Declève** and **Jessie Nicholls**

Chaired by **Chaitanya Kumar**



**Charlie Ogilvie** is strategy director at the COP26 Unit in the Cabinet Office. Prior to the Cabinet Office, Charlie was a special advisor at the department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.



**Sandrine Dixson-Declève** is the co-president of the Club of Rome and a senior associate at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. Sandrine was recognised by GreenBiz as one of the 30 most influential women shaping sustainable business.



**Jessie Nicholls** is the strategic communications manager at the European Climate Foundation. Jessie also runs the blog-website, Head Cases, an all-female discussion group.



**Chaitanya Kumar** is head of environment at the New Economics Foundation (NEF). Chaitanya leads NEF's environmental programmes, including their work on a Green New Deal and a just transition.

### 10.15am - Do we have the leadership we need for a sustainable global economic recovery?

The double challenge of reviving economies after the pandemic and tackling the rising impacts of the climate and nature emergencies will test leaders across the world. What actions should our governments be taking to build low carbon, resilient economies for the future?

Our panel of experts will discuss the opportunities and difficulties of achieving a green recovery, and the relevance of next year's global biodiversity and climate summits to national plans.

**Speakers: Adrienne Buller, John Roome, Thomas Lingard**

Chaired by **Leslie Hook**



**Adrienne Buller** is a senior research fellow at the think tank Common Wealth. Her work focuses on the linkages between the financial system and the climate crisis. Prior to this role, Adrienne worked as the project lead at FinanceMap.



**John Roome** is the regional director, South Asia Sustainable Development at the World Bank. Since joining the World Bank in 1989, John has worked across a number of positions, including senior director of climate change, and operational quality director at the Bank's Africa region.



**Thomas Lingard** global sustainability director – climate & environment at Unilever. He has lots of experience in executive and non-executive roles with leading organisations in both the private and NGO sector, including Unilever, Green Alliance and Oxfam.



**Leslie Hook** has been the environment and clean energy correspondent at the *Financial Times* since 2018. Before her current role, Leslie worked as the San Francisco correspondent and Beijing correspondent at the FT.

**12:15 - 12:55pm - The challenge for Glasgow: can the 2021 UN climate summit kick off a decade of UK climate leadership?**

**Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP** in conversation with **Belinda Gordon**



**Ed Miliband** has served as a Labour MP for Doncaster North since 2005. He is currently the shadow secretary of state for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Ed has previously held positions such as leader of the Labour Party and secretary of state for energy and climate change.



**Belinda Gordon** is strategy director at Green Alliance. Belinda is responsible for developing and executing Green Alliance strategy, as well as overseeing the Greener UK coalition and the Green Renewal project.

**1.15pm - How can we ensure fairness and inclusion are at the heart of environmental action in 2021? [50 mins]**

The impacts of the climate crisis are not equal within and between countries, and they compound pre-existing vulnerabilities. Poor and BAME communities around the world are at the frontline. The 2021 Glasgow climate summit is the opportunity to involve them in the decisions being made about their futures.

This expert panel will discuss how COP26 can amplify minority voices and redress inequalities by making sure that inclusivity and justice are embedded into the proceedings.

**Speakers: Nikita Mistry, Tasneem Essop and TBC.**

Chaired by **Megan Trethewey**



**Nikita Mistry** is the head of civil society engagement at the COP26 Unit in the Cabinet Office.



**Tasneem Essop** is executive director of Climate Action Network International. Tasneem is currently serving as a commissioner in the National Planning Commission of South Africa.



**Megan Trethewey** is the head of programmes at the Conservative Environment Network (CEN).

### **3.30pm: 2021: A year of UK leadership for climate and nature**

Keynote address by the **Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP**, COP president-designate and UK secretary of state for business, energy and industrial strategy

With questions from youth climate campaigners **Aryaana Khan** and **Holly Gillibrand**.



**Rt Hon Alok Sharma** has served as the MP for Reading West since 2010. He is currently the secretary of state for business, energy and industrial strategy. He previously served as secretary of state for international development and minister of state for the Department for Work and Pensions.



**Aryaana Khan** is a youth climate activist from Bangladesh. She sits on the Youth Funding Advisory Board for the Alliance for Climate Education and is currently an undergraduate student at The City College of New York.



**Holly Gillibrand** is a youth climate activist from Scotland and is part of the Schools 4 Climate Action movement.

Green Alliance is grateful to the following organisations for their support of *Making it count* and for their assistance in organising the events:

Wildlife and  
Countryside

