
Climate and Nature Day 2025

LIBERAL
DEMOCRAT
AUTUMN
CONFERENCE

SUNDAY 21ST
SEPTEMBER
2025



Liberals and
Democrats
for Nature
and Climate

In partnership with



Liberals and Democrats for Nature and Climate (LDNC) is an independent organisation working to strengthen the liberal voice for action to restore nature and tackle climate change.



We work with stakeholders and supporters to provide resources, ideas, and platforms for liberal solutions to environmental challenges.

We are delighted to present a full programme of events at this year's Conference for Climate and Nature Day, focused on how Liberal Democrats can win public support by leading the way on environmental action.

Thank you to Renewable UK for sponsoring this booklet and to all our partners for their support for Climate and Nature Day at Conference this year.

ldnc.org.uk
@ldnc-uk
info@ldnc.org.uk

Welcome to Climate and Nature Day at Lib Dem Conference 2025!

Protecting our environment has always been at the heart of Liberal Democrat values. From the Liberal 'Yellow Book' of 1928, which made an early case for the creation of national parks, to when we quadrupled renewable electricity generation and introduced a levy on single-use plastic bags in the Coalition Government, it has always been part of our DNA.

Our history of bold campaigning on the environment has been an area where we can win big on, too. Just look at how many people turned to the Liberal Democrats at last year's election because of our strong stance against the appalling scale of sewage spills polluting local rivers and coastlines.

Since then, my Liberal Democrat colleagues have led the way demonstrating how we can also deliver real change in Parliament: Roz Savage MP secured the first Climate and Nature Statement, Gideon Amos MP won improvements for nature in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, Pippa Heylings MP successfully campaigned for the inclusion of Community Energy in the Great British Energy Act, and Max Wilkinson MP's 'Sunshine Bill' led to a Government commitment to solar panels on new developments.

Our polling with More in Common (read more about that later on) shows that strong, distinctive environmental policies don't just energise our existing supporters, they help us win new voters as well. Safeguarding nature and our environment



is essential for our long-term security, so radical campaigning is needed now. And I hope that the events and policy debates at today's Climate and Nature Day will inspire you to ensure we can step up campaigning on environmental action and build even more public support to make it happen.

BARONESS KATE PARMINTER

Chair, Liberals and Democrats for Nature and Climate (LDNC)

A note from Jane Cooper, Deputy CEO of RenewableUK



Whether in local or national Government, RenewableUK has worked with Liberal Democrats to secure the many benefits that clean energy can bring to the UK.

Renewables aren't just about reducing emissions. Thanks to world leading policies set up under the Liberal Democrats - like the Contracts for Difference auctions for wind, solar and tidal power - the UK has unlocked tens of billions of pounds of investment, boosting our economy and energy security. Renewable energy is also supported by 80% of the public (DESNZ Public Attitudes Tracker).

The UK is already a world leader in offshore wind, and onshore wind, solar, tidal,

and green hydrogen are poised for substantial growth. Today, there are around 2,000 companies across the UK which are part of the wind energy supply chain, and wind energy employs 55,000 people. With the right policies, this is set to increase to 100,000 people by 2030 - with roles based heavily in coastal and rural communities.

Liberal Democrats have long been advocates for a cleaner, fairer economy. By pushing for faster grid upgrades, stable markets and investment frameworks, and planning policies that enable projects with community consent, you can help accelerate the transition while ensuring communities benefit directly.

Now more than ever, the sector needs the support of people who understand that climate action and economic growth go hand in hand. With your help, we can deliver a secure, low-carbon energy system for future generations.

Let's continue to work together to turn ambition into action.

JANE COOPER
Deputy CEO, RenewableUK

11:30 – 12:30 Tregonwell Hall A HEALTHIER FUTURE: CAN LIB DEMS BE THE CHAMPIONS FOR CLEAN AIR?

Air pollution is the biggest environmental threat to health, contributing to over 40,000 early deaths each year. With lives at stake, how can Liberal Democrats drive action to make Britain's air cleaner and healthier? Our panel will explore the role of Lib Dems at every level of government – from local councils pioneering better monitoring and greener transport, to Parliamentarians and campaigners making the case for a new Clean Air Act to ensure the UK doesn't fall behind the standards being set by our European neighbours.

CHAIR



Cllr Joe Harris,
Leader of the LGA
Liberal Democrat
Group

SPEAKERS



Charlotte Cane
MP, Liberal
Democrat MP
for Ely and East
Cambridgeshire



Rosamund Adoo-
Kissi-Debrah CBE
FBSA, Founder,
Ella Roberta
Foundation



Alison Firth,
Head of Policy,
Royal College of
Paediatrics and
Child Health



Cllr Paul Sample,
Wiltshire Council
Cabinet Member
for Environment,
Climate and
Waste



13:00 – 14:00 Tregonwell Hall POWER STRUGGLE: COMBATTING THE RIGHT'S WAR ON RENEWABLES

As Reform UK ramps up its anti-net zero rhetoric – and the Conservatives follow suit – how can liberal voices best defend climate action, expose misinformation, and build a positive vision for the UK's green future? Our panel will discuss the role renewable energy can play in driving household bills down, how Liberal Democrats can take on Farage's fossil fuel myths, and what climate messages truly connect with the public.

CHAIR



Duncan Brack,
Chair, Lib Dem
Climate Change
Working Group

SPEAKERS



Pippa Heylings
MP, Liberal
Democrat
Spokesperson for
Energy Security
and Net Zero



Edward Morello
MP, Liberal
Democrat MP
for West Dorset



Hayden Banks,
Advocacy
Manager, Climate
Outreach



Chris Hewett,
CEO, Solar
Energy UK



The Right's War on Climate Action Is Costing Britain – We're Fighting Back



It is reckless and disgraceful for the Conservatives to have both broken the political consensus on climate change when in government and now threatening to rip up all our climate pledges enshrined in law. We are facing one of the greatest threats to our planet and the Right doesn't care. In fact, it wants to make things worse for our children and grandchildren. We will not be silent. We will fight back for Climate and Nature.

A decade of negligent energy policies under the Conservatives has had impacts on the health and finances of families and businesses who are being punished with sky-high bills. Liberal Democrats will not stand by while many people are forced to choose between heating and eating. Where we are seeing the devastating health impacts and avoidable deaths due to either cold homes during winter or overheated homes with no ventilation during the ever more frequent heatwaves, we will fight to get those bills down, improve housing and living standards, and grow the economy.

But part of the problem is the false narrative that Nigel Farage is peddling - and Kemi Badenoch is poorly imitating - that claims renewable energy is to blame for high bills. For too long people have allowed his myths to spread unchallenged. Liberal Democrats will put a stop to that.

The truth is that homegrown renewable energy is now the cheapest, most secure form of power we have. Cancelling wind and solar projects won't make bills cheaper - it will lock us into expensive fossil fuels and hand more power to foreign dictators like Vladimir Putin. Nigel Farage

might like that, but that's not what Liberal Democrats call standing up for Britain.

Instead, Liberal Democrats have a plan to cut energy bills by half - at least - within ten years by investing in renewables and breaking the link between gas prices and electricity costs.

And it's not just energy. That's what the Labour Government seems to be forgetting. The Liberal Democrats are calling for greater empowerment of local authorities through a statutory climate and nature duty. Our approach puts people first, showing the real, tangible benefits of climate action: cleaner air, more sustainable transport, and greener communities.

Poll after poll shows that the British public - and 80% of Liberal Democrat voters - back climate action. In Parliament we have shown that when we campaign boldly, from demanding solar panels on new homes to championing community-owned clean energy, we win.

That's why Liberal Democrats will lead the charge against the Right's war on climate action. We will be the hopeful, constructive climate and nature opposition that Britain needs and fight to protect the environment for future generations.

PIPPA HEYLINGS MP

Liberal Democrat Energy Security and Net Zero Spokesperson

Britain Needs a Party for Nature – The Lib Dems Can Be Exactly That



When I was lucky enough to be drawn third in the Private Members' Bill ballot last September, I didn't hesitate. For me, there was only one choice. Tackling the twin crises of Climate and Nature is why I came into Parliament - and why I spent seven years rowing solo across the world's "Big Three" oceans.

I'm proud to have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Zero Hour and the campaigners behind the Climate and Nature Bill. Together, we pushed the government into producing its first annual Climate and Nature Statement - a small step in the right direction.

But promises without power are just paper. And frankly, trust is running out. Since January, this government has been rowing hard in the wrong direction - slashing the nature-friendly farming budget, watering down environmental protections in planning, and waving through new airport expansions.

Britain is already one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth. Half our biodiversity gone. Hedgehogs vanishing. The cooing of turtle doves falling silent. The wild heart of our country is breaking.

And yet nature is what we are. It is health, happiness, heritage. We are a nation of gardeners, hillwalkers, birdwatchers. We love our green and pleasant land - but too often this government treats it as just another barrier to bulldoze.

The truth is, people care. Eight million of us are members of the Wildlife Trusts, the RSPB, the National Trust. That's more than all the political parties put together. The people of Britain are already a Party for Nature. It's time our politicians caught up.

With the Conservatives overseeing historic declines in wildlife - and Labour now pressing the accelerator - it falls to the Liberal Democrats to stand up for the species, spaces, and landscapes that make Britain, Britain.

We must be bold. Fund farmers to restore the land. Reject the false choice between growth and green. Make sure water companies never profit from pollution.

This is our moment. We can be the generation that saved nature. Or the one that stood by while it died. The choice is ours.

DR ROZ SAVAGE MP

Liberal Democrat MP for South Cotswolds

18:15 - 19:15 Tregonwell Hall
NATURE: WINNING HERE?

As public frustration with the Government's environmental record grows, this fringe asks: can Lib Dems seize the moment and become the party for nature? Our panel will explore how the Lib Dems can articulate a bold, compelling vision for nature recovery while shaping an economy that works for both people and nature. We'll also hear new insights from More in Common, revealing how a stronger commitment to protecting the local environment can expand the party's reach and strengthen its wider appeal.

CHAIR



Baroness Kate Parminter, Chair, LDNC

SPEAKERS



Dr Roz Savage MP, Liberal Democrat MP for South Cotswolds



Jo Swinson, Director, Partners For A New Economy



Chris Annous, Associate, More in Common



Patrick Begg, Outdoors and Natural Resources Director, National Trust

19:45 - 21:00 Bourne Lounge
THE GREEN GROUPS CLIMATE AND NATURE DRINKS RECEPTION!

Join us to round off Climate and Nature Day for a drink with some of the UK's most influential organisations shaping the future of climate and nature policy. This relaxed reception will bring together leading environmental voices – including Green Alliance, National Trust, WWF, RSPB, and many more – alongside Liberal Democrat campaigners, councillors, and parliamentarians. We'll also hear from Tim Farron MP and Pippa Heylings MP, who will share their vision for how the Liberal Democrats can lead the charge for bold climate action and nature recovery in the year ahead.

SPEAKERS



Pippa Heylings MP, Liberal Democrat Energy Security and Net Zero Spokesperson



Will McCallum, Co-Executive Director, Greenpeace



Elliot Chapman-Jones, Director, LDNC

Finding a voice: Championing the environment can give the Liberal Democrats the purpose they need

Conference season is a time for parties to confront big issues.

How the Liberal Democrats can differentiate themselves in Britain's increasingly fragmented political system is one such issue the party must consider this weekend.

More in Common's research reveals a perceived failure to set out what the party would do differently is the second largest barrier stopping more people from voting Liberal Democrat, behind only the party's low chances of winning power nationally.

More in Common's Green Foundations report with Liberals and Democrats for Nature and Climate indicates developing and emphasising the party's pro-environment policies could play an important part in addressing voters' frustration.

Green Foundations is one of the most extensive studies of Liberal Democrat voters' environmental attitudes. It combines focus groups of Liberal Democrat voters in Wokingham and North Cornwall with extensive polling.

It found 2024 Lib Dem voters are almost twice as likely as the general public to believe climate change and the environment is one of the most important issues facing Britain and that for one in three Lib Dem voters, at least one of the party's environmental policies was a top reason for backing the party last year. Lib Dem voters also overwhelmingly want their local MPs to use their time in Parliament to champion environmental action. This prioritisation of environmental issues is common to both Lib Dem voters inside and outside the constituencies won by the party.



Public perceptions of Labour and the Conservatives' environmental records are particularly poor. Yet few Britons, just 5%, think the Liberal Democrats best represent their views on environmental issues. Even among those who voted Liberal Democrat, less than two fifths hold this view.

These perceived weak environmental credentials stem from a lack of familiarity with the Lib Dems' environmental offer. Awareness of the Liberal Democrats' environmental policies is lower than all the other policy areas tested, among both Britons overall and Lib Dem voters.

Significant electoral rewards can be earned if the Liberal Democrats can successfully develop and articulate a distinctive approach on the environment. Our policy conjoint experiment showed presenting voters with the party's existing environmental policies is a significantly more effective way of securing voters' support than presenting them with the anti-President Trump positioning the party has deployed with vigour.

The political opportunity the environment presents for the Liberal Democrats is significant and our Green Foundations report provides rich insights on how to seize this for those debating the party's green policies this weekend.

CHRIS ANNOUS
Associate, More in Common



**Roam, Rewild, Restore: Democratising
England's Land**

Saturday 20th September – 13.00-14:30

**Highcliffe Marriott, Dorchester South
Green Liberal Democrats and Rewilding Britain**
Chair: Richard Benwell – CEO, Wildlife and
Countryside Link

Speakers: Caroline Voaden MP, Tim Farron MP
Rebecca Wrigley – CEO, Rewilding Britain,
Doug Parr – Chief Scientist, Greenpeace,
Jon Moses – Right to Roam
Rose O'Neill CEO, Campaign for National Parks

**Climate Scorecards to Real Change:
How can Local Authorities power up
climate and nature action?**

Saturday 20th September – 20.15-21:30

**Bournemouth International Centre (BIC),
Tregonwell Hall**

Green Liberal Democrats and MCS Foundation
Chair: Cllr Steve Mason
Speakers: Pippa Heylings MP,
Isaac Beevor – Climate Emergency UK,
Sam Markey – Recurve – Impact Investing
Garry Felgate – CEO, MCS Foundation,
MCS Foundation

Beach Cleanup and Nature Comb

Sunday 21st September – 09:45

**Bournemouth Beach below BIC, outside
Oceanarium**

**Marine Conservation Society, Rewilding Britain,
Dorset Wildlife Trusts**

**Building Social Capital through a Just
Transition**

Sunday 21st September, 11:30-12:30

**Highcliff Marriott Hotel, Blandford Room
Green Liberal Democrats**

A new Lib Dem economic vision is being developed,
but what does the transition plan look like between
now and a sustainable future that works for all?

Chair: Cllr Steve Mason
Speakers: Josh Matthews,
Sam Markey – Recurve – Impact Investing,
Adam Jacobs – Founder, Bloom Procurement

Visit us on STAND 50

**Turning Over a Green Leaf:
How Closer UK-EU Collaboration
Would Benefit the Environment**

Sunday 21st September – 13:00-14:00

**Bournemouth International Centre,
Westbourne Suite**

Green Liberal Democrats and CEM Trust
Speakers: Dr Michael Warhurst – Executive
Director of CEM Trust, Baroness Grender –
Lords Spokesperson, DEFRA,
Emma Knaggs - European Movement

**Green Gas: Powering the Next
Industrial Revolution. How can Green
Hydrogen and Bio Gas reshape our
economy and decarbonise industry
and farming?**

Sunday 21st September – 18:15-19:15

**Bournemouth International Centre (BIC),
Bayview Suite 1**

Green Liberal Democrats and Cadent
Speakers: Cadent, Chris Huhne - Anaerobic
Digestion and Bioresources Association,
Victoria Collins MP*

**The Green Groups Climate and Nature
Drinks Reception!**

Sunday 21st September – 19.45-21:00

**Bournemouth International Centre (BIC),
Bourne Lounge**

Wrap up Climate and Nature Day with leading
environmental voices - inc' Green Alliance,
National Trust, WWF, RSPB, and more.
Hear from Pippa Heylings MP on how Lib Dems
can lead the charge for nature and climate.

Hard to Retrofit: Who Pays the Bills?

Monday 22nd September – 08:00-09:00

**Highcliff Marriott Hotel, Sherborne Suite
Green Liberal Democrats and The Property Institute**

Speakers: Wera Hobhouse MP, Gideon Amos
MP, Jaclyn Mangaroo – The Property Institute,
Garry Felgate – CEO, MCS Foundation

**NOTE - some speakers subject to confirmation*

**CAMPAIGN with
the Green Liberal
Democrats...**



*“Each generation is responsible
for the fate of our planet and, by
safeguarding the balance of nature
and the environment, for the long-
term continuity of life in all its forms.”*

The second sentence in the Preamble to the Constitution
of the Liberal Democrats

Green Liberal Democrats have been an
integral part of the Party since its forma-
tion in 1988 and contributed to the Party's
core philosophy with the sentence above
from the outset. Its forerunner, the Liberal
Ecology Group, dates back to 1977, so our
environmental longevity and credentials
are impeccable.

As one of the largest Affiliated Organ-
isations in the Party and with many of our
members active as PPCs in second place in
many constituencies, we were forecasting
a significant influx of environmental cam-
paigners entering Parliament in the runup
to the 2024 General Election.

So, we have worked closely with Liber-
als and Democrats for Nature and Climate
(LDNC), which will act as a key co-ordinat-
ing body for our parliamentarians, help
create better connections with environ-
mental NGOs, and enable a strong voice for
the wider environmental movement within
the corridors of Westminster.



Since LDNC is primarily about creating
a strong liberal voice for environmental
action within a parliamentary context, the
need for a strong Green Liberal Democrat
organisation becomes even more vital for
the campaigning work the Party must now
do outside Parliament. We have a continuing
role to coordinate on a huge range of green
political issues, linking especially with our
Local Authority base to drive real advances
in environmental action on the ground.

And, to do that, we need many more
active members to join our ranks. If you are
ready to help us push the boundaries of
campaigning, please scan the QR code and
join us NOW...

COUNCILLOR KEITH MELTON
Vice Chair (Organisation) GLD
& Founding Chair, 1988, GLD

09:45 – 10:30
**BEACH CLEANUP
AND NATURE COMB**

Bournemouth Beach
below BIC, outside
Oceanarium

Start Climate and Nature Day by getting hands-on for nature. Join the Marine Conservation Society and Rewilding Britain for a morning beach cleanup and nature comb along Bournemouth's shoreline.

11:30 – 12:30
**A HEALTHIER FUTURE: CAN
LIB DEMS BE THE CHAMPIONS
FOR CLEAN AIR?**

Tregonwell Hall

With air pollution contributing to over 40,000 early deaths each year, how can Liberal Democrats drive action to make Britain's air cleaner and healthier?

12:30 – 13:00
**CLIMATE AND NATURE DAY
– LUNCHTIME NETWORK
AND PHOTO CALL**

Tregonwell Hall

Join leading environmental organisations for a Climate and Nature photo call, and discover how they're driving action on climate and nature and how you can get involved.

13:00 - 14:00
**POWER STRUGGLE:
COMBATTING THE RIGHT'S
WAR ON RENEWABLES**

Tregonwell Hall

Explore how liberal voices can best defend climate action, expose misinformation, and build a positive vision for the UK's green future.

15:15 – 16:45
**POLICY MOTION: FOR
PEOPLE, FOR PLANET
(CLIMATE POLICY PAPER)**

Main Auditorium

See the Conference Agenda for full details of this motion.

**PROGRAMME
OF EVENTS FOR
CLIMATE AND
NATURE DAY**



17:25 – 18:00
**POLICY MOTION: THIS LAND IS
YOUR LAND – RESTORING PUBLIC
PATHS THROUGH NATURE**

Main Auditorium

See the Conference Agenda for full details of this motion.

18:15 – 19:15
NATURE: WINNING HERE?

Tregonwell Hall

As public frustration with the Government's environmental record grows, this fringe asks: can Lib Dems seize the moment and become the party for nature?

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**THE GREEN GROUPS
CLIMATE AND NATURE
DRINKS RECEPTION!**

Bourne Lounge

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