



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Cllr James Mallinder
Chair,
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Dear Cllr Mallinder and Ms Healey,

Thank you for your letter of 3 August, to the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, regarding support for a green recovery. I am replying as this matter falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

I am grateful to you for raising this important matter. As the Prime Minister made clear, in recovering from COVID-19 we must build back better and greener, and do that at the pace that this moment requires. The Government is putting a green recovery at the heart of its response to COVID-19, both domestically through further investment in low carbon infrastructure and by embedding action on climate change in support for recovery internationally as host of COP26.

The decisions we make today can lay the foundation for sound, sustainable and inclusive growth. The UK has shown that growing our economy and cutting emissions can be achieved at the same time. We have grown our economy by 75% while cutting emissions by 43% over the past three decades. The UK has over 460,000 jobs in low carbon businesses and their supply chains and many of the actions we need to take to reach our target of net zero emissions by 2050 will support jobs and growth in every region of the UK.

The UK is at the forefront of adopting new low-carbon initiatives such as energy storage technologies, smart electricity systems, and zero-emission vehicles. These innovations are creating new green jobs and economic opportunities while also providing cleaner air and warmer homes.

Meeting net zero and delivering the global transition to a low carbon economy will require unprecedented levels of investment in green and low carbon technologies, services, and infrastructure. The UK power sector is a success story that we want to replicate in other sectors having attracted more than £94 billion of investment since 2010. Our sustained support for clean energy has led to dramatic falls in the price of some renewable technologies. The auction prices of offshore wind reduced by around two-thirds between the 2015 and 2019. Consequently, renewable electricity generation has more than quadrupled since 2010 and low carbon electricity now gives us over 50 percent of our total.

This year alone, the Government has committed billions in spending as we increase support for our low-carbon economy and green jobs. We are taking action in every sector including: £2 billion to kickstart a cycling and walking revolution; £1 billion of support for ultra-low emission vehicles; £800 million to capture carbon from power stations and industry; a £640 million Nature Climate Fund; and £100 million for research and development into Direct Air Capture technologies. At the Chancellor's economic update on July 8, the Government set out the next stage in our support for the UK's recovery from the pandemic with over £3 billion of investment to create and support up to 140,000 green jobs and upgrade homes and public buildings across the country.

In November 2021, the UK will provide global leadership on climate change as President Designate and host of COP26 in Glasgow. We are determined to use this platform to raise global climate ambitions to achieve the transformational change required by the Paris Agreement. In the run-up to this vitally important climate summit, we will be publishing decarbonisation plans for the major sectors of our economy. In March, we published the first phase of our transport decarbonisation plan and will be setting our further plans on energy, heat and buildings and the natural environment over the coming months.

This Government is determined to ensure that the benefits of our growing low-carbon economy are shared fairly in every region. The Prime Minister confirmed in his Economy Speech that the Government will bring forward the Local Recovery and Devolution white paper detailing how the UK Government will partner with places across the UK to build a sustainable economic recovery. This white paper will set out the Government's place-based strategy to support economic recovery, level up the UK's regions, and expand expanding devolution across the country.

Finally, our ambitious 25-year Environment Plan committed to leave the environment in a better state than we found it. Mitigating and adapting to climate change in a way which respects and enhances our natural environment is essential if we are to meet this goal. In the recent budget, the Government announced an investment of up to £25 million in a Nature Recovery Fund and £640 million for the Nature for Climate Fund, which will kick-start a step-change in tree planting and peatland restoration in England. The Environment Bill will help deliver the most ambitious environmental programme of any country on earth. It will drive the long-term action nature needs to recover, through legally binding targets, a new environmental enforcement body, the Office for Environmental Protection, and placing environmental principles in domestic law in a consistent and transparent way.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope that this letter demonstrates the desire to ensure a green and fair recovery from COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,



RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth