

Ms. X
Friends of the Earth

24th April 2006

Dear Ms. X,

Thank you for your letter.

I do strongly believe that we need to live in a cleaner and greener world and also believe the Government should do a lot more than it is currently doing. I am pressing this Government to cut its own carbon footprint on the world and have recommended a series of proposals to them:

- 1. To cut the amount of air travel that ministers and senior officials carry out.**
- 2. To change the style of air travel to more fuel-efficient means, using public transport planes more and private planes less.**
- 3. To improve the thermal insulation of public buildings.**
- 4. To introduce energy saving light bulbs throughout the public estate.**
- 5. To change the temperature targets for both heating and air conditioning systems.**
- 6. To examine the need to have street lighting on all night in many locations where very few people use the routes**
- 7. To tackle the fuel inefficiency of a great deal of public transport related to its age and the dirtiness of its engines.**
- 8. To reduce the use of ministerial cars.**
- 9. To choose cleaner cars.**
- 10. To develop a sensible electricity generation strategy that could cut the output of carbon from electricity generation.**

I am all in favour of the Government setting itself a carbon budget and am urging the Government to do so. I also strongly support the general approach of the Conservative Party to these matters. As you

have outlined in your letter to me, the Conservative Party does take this issue very seriously and wishes to see targets that are set and met. We believe it is essential to have a post-Kyoto treaty, with clear targets. This treaty must involve both America and developing countries, particularly China and India. We need measurable targets in order to guarantee a market for nascent industries.

The Conservative party has also committed to statutory year on year reductions of carbon emissions, and an independent body to ensure this happens, although we are still considering the exact figure this target should be. In addition, we have signed a cross-party agreement on climate change. This proposes an independent body to monitor and enforce year-on-year carbon reductions, at least sixty per cent by 2050. The body would publish an annual report which will be debated in both Houses of Parliament. Sadly, the Labour party has so far refused calls to join this consensus.

Early Day Motions are never debated and have little impact. I always prefer to take the matter up directly with the relevant minister, and raised these issues directly with the Leader of the House on Thursday the 20th April. You cannot save the planet by signing EDMs, but we could make a contribution if we can persuade the Government to behave in a cleaner and greener way when spending our money.

Yours sincerely,