



DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

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Content from Dr Dan Poulter, MP

In recent weeks, it's fair to say that public concern about climate change continues to grow and regardless of the merits, or otherwise, of school strikes and mass city protests, the voices being raised reflect the growing concern and sense of urgency for the need to tackle this critical issue.

Since I was first elected in 2010, I have consistently worked to raise issues around climate change, serving as Vice Chair of the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee, until it was reconfigured in 2017. With the heightened public call for Government to do more in tackling climate change, I would hope that my own track record speaks for itself on this matter.

I remain committed to raising issues relevant to climate change with Government and in the House of Commons and Westminster Hall Chambers. I have contributed to a number of debates on related issues over the last year or so alone, including the diesel vehicle scrappage scheme and the electric and hybrid market, Dieter Helm's Energy Review, looking at reducing carbon footprint and producing cleaner, greener energy, and debates on geothermal energy and regulation of heat networks. I have also consistently submitted Parliamentary Questions on this vitally important topic.

In recognising the need to rise to the challenge of tackling climate change, it is also important to take stock and recognise our achievements so far. The UK leads the G7 in terms of reducing our carbon emissions – we have cut our emissions per unit of national income on average by 3.7% per year, well ahead of the EU average of 2.3% and the G7 average of 2.2%. The last time the UK's emissions were this low was in 1888.

Our achievements in cutting emissions from our electricity generation particularly stand out. More than half of the UK's electricity was generated from low-carbon sources last year, the highest ever share, while we achieved a record 90 hours of continuous coal-free generation over the recent Easter weekend. Our renewable energy capacity has quadrupled since 2010 and the UK has the largest installed offshore wind capacity in the world thanks to our sustained investment in this crucial technology.

Whilst these are undoubtedly great achievements, there remains much to be done and we have already signalled that we want to be more ambitious, both in our actions and in driving concerted global efforts. Climate change is too broad a challenge for this Government to tackle alone - it is a global problem to which the solution will be a global commitment. It is a matter of supreme importance and one on which I will continue to take every opportunity to make the case and press for action.

For more information please visit my website www.drdanielpoulter.com

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