



DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

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The favourite part of my week is undoubtedly returning home to Suffolk when Parliament concludes on a Thursday. The marked change of returning home to Suffolk with its wide-open skies and clean air is immediately rejuvenating after being in London. We are lucky to live in a county like Suffolk protected from overdevelopment and with our strong rural heritage.

Protecting Suffolk, the United Kingdom, and the rest of the world from climate change is the reason that world leaders are meeting in Glasgow for the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties summit (COP26) in early November. At the conference, the UK and all the other countries attending will be expected to carry out a process known as the “ratchet mechanism”, whereby a greater commitment is made to reducing carbon emissions and prevent further global warming.

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges we face, and I am proud of Britain’s world-leading role in tackling climate change and the transition to Clean Energy Growth. The UK was the first country to pass laws to become carbon neutral and eliminate our contribution to climate change by 2050. We have been the second fastest country in the G20 to cut climate emissions. Suffolk’s Energy Coast is now playing an important role in the supply of the UK’s clean energy requirements and it’s anticipated that our area will produce some 30% of the UK’s energy requirements by 2030.

I recently met with the South Korean Vice Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy: Park Jin-kyu to discuss climate change. South Korea is a world leading economy in developing new technologies including new technologies that help to reduce carbon emissions. They are also passing laws to ensure that South Korea will be carbon neutral by 2050. If we are serious about meeting our own climate change commitments, we shall need to continue to exchange ideas and work with South Korea and other countries that are committed to the 2050 carbon neutral commitment at the forthcoming COP26 conference and in the years ahead.

The COP26 summit will also highlight the need for us all to play our own individual role in helping to reduce carbon emissions and slow down the rate of climate change. Whilst global Governments and industry are key players, tackling climate change is everyone’s responsibility and by making small and simple changes in our daily lives, we can collectively help to make a difference,

These small changes needn’t cost a lot of money, for example, switching to an energy supplier who uses renewable energy or switching to more energy efficient LED lightbulbs in our homes; or perhaps thinking about reducing our food miles and sourcing our food and produce more locally – we certainly have an abundance of excellent suppliers right here in Suffolk.

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