

Road to Net Zero¹

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Climate Change- a term quickly becoming ever more prominent in the makeup of everyday life. From family discussions to news headlines, the topic dominates current social spheres, and rightly so.

With politicians and bureaucrats disguising the issue through political grandeur and meek reactionary “actions on climate”, it seems fitting to address the basic premise of the climate crisis, and to shed light on the importance of the power and will of the people in response to its impending imposition.

The news recently has offered a bleak outlook of the current international situation the globe finds itself in regarding climate change, and unfortunately, it is only set to worsen. Increased instances of wildfires, flooding and massive landslides have been documented over the past few months, and year on year global temperatures have increased, with 2020 marking the hottest year on record.

The quickly deteriorating global situation requires monumental solutions and transformational changes to global structures and an even greater shift in attitudes and mobilisation from the public.

The latest IPCC report has identified what many already new, that without action, the effects of climate change will worsen and pose a grave threat to humanity and life systems on earth as we know it.

But this is not a time to despair, this is a time for action, and there is no time better than the present.

There is no denying that global environmental, climate policy has been inadequate, and goals set by politicians and business leaders alike have severely undermined the impending nature of the climate crisis. Current UK targets aim for Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050, a very long way away in the rapidly accelerating and progressive nature of anthropogenic climate change. Nationally Determined Contributions from nations within the Paris climate agreement may have looked good from a diplomatic perspective, but 6 years later and the current goals set would take the world far beyond the 1.5C of warming the IPCC will warn is the threshold of safety.

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The precedent set by world leaders and politicians has so far failed to declare the importance of adequate global climate change legislation, but we can change that. COP26 takes place in November and is a huge opportunity to declare the severity of our global struggle against climate change and do something meaningful against it.

Climate Change is an issue that effects all of us and every single living thing on earth, we all have a stake in combatting it and there is so much individuals can do to play their part and create change from the bottom up, holding politicians and business leaders alike to account. By taking things back to basics, back to the people, we can influence change to prevent climate and ecological breakdown.

If we are to build a new future, we must get the message out to individuals and we must do our bit. Reduce your own emissions, whether that's eating less meat, travelling less by car and plane, transitioning to renewables, all change is good change. Engage with movements that hold politicians to account and encourage them to implement the changes society needs to see. And most importantly, talk, remain active on this issue amongst circles of friends and family, work colleagues and associates alike, if we keep pressing on this issue, the likelihood is that solutions are attainable for a cleaner, greener and fairer world.

About the Author



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Joshua Farnsworth is a Carbon Reduction Engineer at Tunley Engineering in Leeds. Joshua joined Tunley Engineering whilst completing his Master's degree in Environmental Science and Climate Change Politics at the University of Sheffield. Having previously completed an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Government from Newcastle University, he specialised in environmental politics and policy, and finished his 3-year course with a dissertation focusing on US environmental politics and governance. With knowledge and expertise in global and national environmental policies and climate change governance, Joshua offers companies and government officials alike a different perspective within the Carbon Reduction Team to expand and explore solutions to the climate crisis. He can be contacted via www.tunley-engineering.com.