

The top half of the poster is decorated with numerous small, stylized hearts in various shades of green, scattered across the background.

Show The Love COMMUNITY ACTION PACK

February 2022

A small, stylized bee with yellow and black stripes and white wings is positioned to the right of the date.

#TheFightThatUnites

theclimatecoalition.org



The UK Government came out of the UN Climate Summit with a big to-do list.

In February 2022, let's come together to make sure they deliver.

Together we will show decision makers that the UK public wants to see real and rapid action to tackle the climate and nature crisis - for the love of our families, our homes, our livelihoods and our planet.

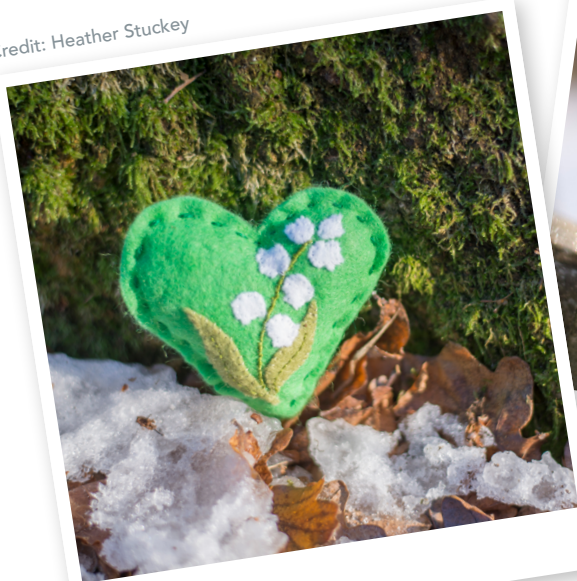
Since 2015, people from across the UK have used the power of green hearts every February to ask politicians to tackle the climate crisis and protect what we love from its worst impacts.



Credit: The Climate Coalition



Credit: Heather Stuckey



Credit: Heather Stuckey

In the last few months of 2021, we saw the public appetite for climate action reach an all time high, with a huge number of events organised by community groups around the UK during the Great Big Green Week - 200,000 people showed up for the planet at over 5,000 events in their communities and online. We hope you'll help us make a bigger splash as part of Great Big Green Week in September 2022. But, right now we need you to help us start the year with some hearts!

When you make and share a green heart, you are sending a clear message to people in power that you care about climate, nature and people. It is now more important than ever to show decision makers that tackling the climate crisis is the fight that unites.

The more green hearts MPs see, the stronger their mandate to make sure your wishes are acted on in Parliament. This pack is full of ideas on how to use the power of green hearts to persuade politicians to act.



How can I get involved?

We'd love you to create a green heart - either at home or with others in your community and use it to ask your MP to keep up the momentum on climate change. Use your green heart to ask them to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor calling for leadership and action on climate and nature. You can find your MP's contact details at members.parliament.uk/constituencies.

Here are some ideas to get you started. You could use one of these ideas as an activity for a community group event during February, or get together with some friends to do a green heart crafting session.

Make, wear and share Green Hearts

Craftivism is a great way to get creative - combining activism and crafting! Why not craft your own green heart - check out our resources page at theclimatecoalition.org/showthelove for ideas and inspiration. **Or, see page 6 for a craft by Great British Sewing Bee's Patrick Grant.** Personalise your green heart for your MP and send it to them with our foldable card. You could even craft your green heart as part of a community event!

Bake a Green Heart

If you prefer food to fabric, why not get baking? Create a green heart cake with your MP's name on it. Take a picture and share it with your MP - this could be via social media, email or letter.

Create a Green Heart with your community

Come together with local people and create a green heart out of your community members! Be that on your bikes, after a tree planting event in your local green space or swimming in your local blue space. Take a picture and share it with your MP - this could be via social media, email or letter.

Digital Green Hearts

If getting creative online is more your thing, create a digital green heart with members of your community.

Could you recreate a famous Valentines film? Maybe the Love Actually card scene but with green hearts? Or could you create a video with messages from your community about why they care about climate change and want to see action?

Share your video on social media or via email and use it to ask your MP to champion action on climate change!

Letter Writing

Invite members of your community to write letters to your MP about what is important to you and why you want them to take climate action - the more people who write to your MP the more likely your MP is to act.

We'd recommend personalising your letter and perhaps including a thank you for their recent work - it's a great way to begin building a positive relationship with your MP. You can email your MP or send them a letter in the post.

Share your green heart with your MP, asking them to keep up the momentum on climate change. Use your green heart and our foldable card (in the back of this pack) to ask them to write the Prime Minister and Chancellor calling for leadership and action on climate and nature.

If you'd like to print out your own, visit our website.

Once you've decided what you're going to do, make sure you let us know so we can share, promote and further support all your wonderful ideas and creations! Just fill out the form at theclimatecoalition.org/showthelove.

Craft a Green Heart with Patrick Grant

I'm delighted to have created the green heart craft challenge for the Show The Love campaign by The Climate Coalition.

By crafting, wearing or sharing a green heart with your local MP, you can show our government and politicians that you care about climate, nature and people.

So please join me this February and get crafting, for the love of our families, our homes, our livelihoods and our planet.



For thousands of years we dyed our clothing and textiles naturally using plants grown locally but in the 1800's chemists developed synthetic dyes and this ancient craft was consigned to a hobby. Whilst modern dyes give a range of bright, long lasting colours, they are mostly made from fossil fuels, have a heavy carbon footprint and because many are toxic, they can be harmful to the people working with them and the environments they're later released into.

One way to be kinder to the planet is to use natural, renewable, compostable dyes made from plants. Not only are they non toxic, they also sequester carbon as they grow.



So I have enlisted the help of my good friend Justine Aldersey-Williams from The Wild Dyery who is a plant dyeing specialist. She has provided the technical know-how needed to make a patchwork fabric heart, using reclaimed fabric, that we'll dye various shades of green using a natural dye.

You will need:

- Piece of old denim measuring 23cm x 23cm
- 5 x strips of old white fabric (natural fibre e.g. cotton pillowcase) measuring:-
 - 2 strips 7.5cm x 23cm
 - 5 strips 5.5cm x 23cm
- 1 skein white embroidery thread
- Embroidery needle
- 10g chlorophyllin dye
- 25g mordant (organic aluminium lactate or aluminium acetate)
- Old pan and spoon
- Old mixing jug and teaspoon
- 1 sheet A4 paper
- Pencil and rubber
- Pen
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Pins
- Apron & rubber gloves
- Face mask

TIP

Work with friends, family, classmates to make use of your dye and mordant. You need 5g mordant/100g fibre and 10g dye/100g fibre. And use any remaining pretreatment and dye to 'green' an old white shirt or t-shirt.

Health and Safety:

- Wear a face mask when measuring and mixing fine powders and work in a well ventilated area
- Allocate old kitchen equipment for dyeing
- Protect work surfaces
- Avoid contact with skin by wearing apron and rubber gloves
- If doing this craft with children, we'd recommend mixing up the dye before you start the craft.
- The dye is natural but not edible so make sure any leftover dye is not left within reach of young children.

Instructions

Step 1: To make a template, measure a 21cm square of paper, fold in half then draw a 2cm border around unfolded sides. Sketch half a heart from folded centre line to border and cut out.

Step 2: Cut open the leg of a pair of old and unwanted jeans/denim jacket etc., pin your template in place. Draw the inner heart using chalk or a pen. Cut the square 1cm (seam allowance) from the outer edge. Cut out heart shape.



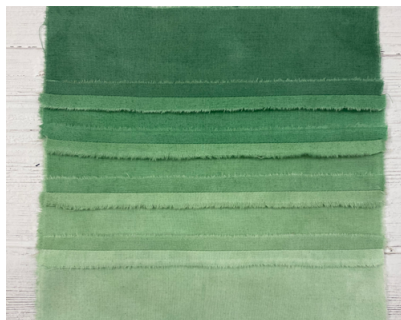
Step 3: To pretreat your materials with the mordant, first weigh them, then scour (hot wash with an eco-detergent) just the white fabric to remove any conditioners. Allow 5g mordant for every 100g fibre. Embroidery yarn does not need scouring but should be added to the mordant. Fill old pan with just enough tap hot water to cover. Add mordant and stir. Add fabric and yarn. Soak for two hours. Rinse thoroughly.

Step 4: To dye five strips of fabric five shades of green, first add 10g of chlorophyllin powder to an old mixing jug or cup. Make into paste with hot water, then dilute until liquid. Fill an old pan with just enough hot water to cover your fabric and yarn. Heat to a simmer.

Gradients can be achieved by altering both dye strength and time left in the pan, so experiment with each.

For palest shade, add just 1/5th dye solution to pan, briefly dip first strip, rinse and iron dry to check shade (you can always re-dip to dye darker). For second shade, try leaving strip in pan for 15-30 mins. Keep adding more dye until the entire solution is in the pan.

The darkest shade of green can be cooked at a simmer for an hour. The white embroidery yarn can be dyed two shades of green. Rinse and dry all fabrics and yarn.



Step 5: Sew strips of fabric into gradient allowing 1cm seam allowance and iron open seams.

Step 6: Place stitched green fabric and denim together, wrong sides facing upwards and pin. Stitch around entire square perimeter with a 1cm seam allowance. Fold corners and turn to right side. Iron.

Step 7: Blanket stitch around outer edge in one shade of green and sew a running stitch around the heart in another.



Get Inspired

We've been working with our local MP, Derek Thomas, since 2015. Derek has taken our views back to Westminster helping progress issues such as teaching climate change in schools. We are very grateful that Derek has made himself so accessible to his constituents including through a jointly run webinar series about climate change and building resilience in Cornwall. By working together, we have strengthened his case in Parliament for tackling climate change at all levels.



Members of Zennor WI with Derek Thomas MP for St Ives, West Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly at their Great Big Green Week Event

Pippa Stilwell, WI (Zennor)



Credit: The Climate Coalition



Credit: Hannah Henderson, Christian Aid

[Our MP] now sees us as constituents with whom she will work to help bring about sustainability improvements locally, nationally and internationally around common goals.

St Helens South and Whiston constituent, supported by Hope for the Future to meet their MP



Credit: Louise Norton, CAFOD



Credit: The Climate Coalition

We're working closely with our local Councillors and our MP to achieve Net Zero by 2030 in Uttoxeter. They are helping to ensure that policies are fit for purpose and support processes such as planning for retrofitting and biodiversity projects. We work together as a community, no matter the party, as it's not about us, it's about the future generations and the legacy we leave.

Kate Copeland, Director of The Globe Foundation



Kate Copeland with Kate Griffiths MP for Burton and Uttoxeter at their Great Big Green Week Gala



Wesley Methodist Church Eco Group meeting their MP, Chris Matheson in September 2021, supported by HFTF



Credit: Louise Norton, CAFOD



Credit: Leicester City Council



Laura D'Henin meeting her MP, Margaret Greenwood, supported by HFTF

I am learning so much about national and local politics and aspire to have an open and honest dialogue with my MP so as to make change actually happen.

Constituent supported by Hope for the Future




Why is Talking to Your MP Important?




Engaging with your MP is more important than ever if the UK is to keep up the momentum after the UN Climate Summit. When constituents like you engage with decision makers and educate them about the risks and opportunities of the climate crisis, it is possible to convince even the most sceptical to take action.

We know many people are unsure about how worthwhile contacting their MP will be, and many feel daunted by the prospect of doing so. But, meeting your MP is an opportunity to see real, tangible action on climate change at a local and even national level.





Hope for the Future is a member organisation of The Climate Coalition, with eight years of experience supporting people all across the UK to engage their MP. Sarah Jordan, HFTF's Director outlines why it is so important to talk to your MP:



Engaging with your local politician can sound intimidating, but in fact it can be simple and fun! They are elected to represent **you**. Meeting constituents who are passionate about a particular area, and who are clear on how their MP can help, is a real highlight of an MP's job!

We know that building a relationship with your MP can encourage them to become a more committed climate champion in Parliament. **If every MP had constituents effectively and positively advocating for climate action, even small changes in individual MPs' knowledge and approach to climate policy could have a drastic impact on action in Parliament as a whole.**



You have a powerful role to play in moving climate change further up your MP's agenda, just by having a simple conversation with them about your concerns. We've been working with Jamie Stone MP, who echoes this, **"as an MP, it's very easy to stand up in the Commons amidst lots of other MPs to not be absolutely certain whether or not you're speaking on behalf of your constituents, and [my constituents have] been terrific in actually saying there are people who really do care about these things"**

Through facilitating hundreds of MP meetings, we know that MPs feel as though their constituents have a general concern about climate, but often little guidance as to what action voters would like to see. **Your voice matters** in translating this general message into tangible and concrete action that your MP can take. Although the climate crisis is a global issue, if the UK is to meet net zero targets, we need to see decisions around infrastructure happening at a local and national level and this is where you can effect change by working with your MP.

Hope for the Future exists to support you through the entire process of engaging your MP, and use their experience of previous meetings to make your engagement as meaningful as possible. Get in touch at hftf.org.uk to request their support.



Credit: The Climate Coalition



Credit: Leicester City Council



Credit: Hannah Henderson, Christian Aid

Top Tips on Engaging Your MP

1. Research your MP

It's worth doing a bit of detective work before you make contact with your MP. Find out things like which political party they are in, what their interests and areas of expertise are, and if they're interested in any climate-related issues or solutions. You might not agree on everything but this is a great way to find common ground to tailor your communications. Check out theyworkforyou.com to get an overview of their voting record or members.parliament.uk/constituencies to see if they've written any questions about climate change. Hope for the Future can help you with this research, get in touch at hftf.org.uk

2. Send a personalised message or invitation

MPs are more likely to respond to personalised emails and letters so make sure you tailor your message as much as possible. Make sure it's clear in your email that you are in their constituency by including your postcode. Struggling to get started? Check out Hope for the Future's template letters or fill out Hope for the Future's support request form to get tailored support.



Credit: The Climate Coalition



Credit: Leicester City Council

3. Make a plan

Before meeting or contacting your MP, it's helpful to decide on what climate issue you want to talk to your MP about. It's great to bring some facts to help you make your argument but don't overwhelm your MP with statistics.

MPs want to know about local issues so focus on how climate change is affecting your constituency and what action they, as your representative, could take.

Always try to include an action. This may be 'please will you write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor calling for leadership and action on climate and nature on behalf of our constituency?' or 'please will you meet with us to discuss sustainable transport solutions in the town centre, via Zoom?'

4. Follow up

Send an email or a letter to your MP to thank them for responding or having a meeting with you. This is a great way to build up a relationship with them. It's also a great opportunity to remind them of any commitments they made and ask them to keep you updated on the progress they make.

We know that the most effective outcomes are achieved when we think about each MP engagement as just one part of a longer term relationship. Great Big Green Week is happening again in September, just seven months away! Speaking to your MP now about climate change is important for sustaining their interest over the course of the coming months and years, a time when climate action is so vital for 'keeping 1.5 alive.'

You can find the links and more on our website theclimatecoalition.org/showthelove



What is The Climate Coalition Calling For?

At COP26 in Glasgow, the world agreed that we need to speed up action to limit climate change to protect people and nature. Every bit of warming makes our planet less safe by causing extreme weather, nature loss and rising sea levels. We still have a long way to go, but the gap between where we are and a safer world is beginning to close.

In order to meet the COP26 agreement, the UK government must do much more to help the most vulnerable people experiencing climate change, restore nature and dramatically cut emissions.

We will only succeed if tackling climate change and restoring nature is at the top of the agenda for every single government department next year and in the years to come. As a first step, we're calling on the Prime Minister and Chancellor to show us they mean business by acting on the recent recommendations from their independent advisors, the Climate Change Committee (CCC). We want them to spell out how they will mobilise every government department to rise to meet these recommendations.

You can find a summary of the Climate Change Committee's advice to government on our website theclimatecoalition.org/showthelove

Take action to tackle climate change at home

Action not words.

The UK's plan to cut its emissions by 2030 (known as a 'Nationally Determined Contribution' - NDC) is ambitious, but the policies are not in place to deliver it. The Government recently outlined a Net Zero Strategy (more words), this now needs to be delivered at pace (more action).



Cut carbon.

The NDC should be made legally binding. It has to be met by cutting, not offsetting carbon, and should include targets that require every major sector to step up and do their bit.

Address the risks.

The UK should considerably strengthen its policies on addressing the risks posed by climate change in the UK, like flooding and other extreme weather events.

Lead on the world stage and support global climate action

Decisions in 2022 are critical to the chances of limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C. The UK holds the presidency of COP until November 2022 so it is important that the Government continues to resource the necessary internal capacity to drive forward the agreements made at COP26.

Keep climate action on the table worldwide

The UK must prioritise climate action in the G20 and G7, including:


- encouraging stronger climate plans (NDCs) across the world;
- strengthening new initiatives on deforestation, coal and methane;
- supporting stronger action from businesses and the financial sector;
- ensuring climate finance promises are delivered quickly and transparently,
- ensuring that a constructive dialogue continues on compensation for climate impacts in climate-vulnerable countries.



End all new fossil fuel projects.

The climate summit in Glasgow called for a 'phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies'. The Climate Change Committee suggests Treasury reviews tax policy to address this. The Climate Coalition believes the UK must go further than this by stopping new fossil fuel projects at home and abroad, and ensuring all UK finance decisions support their climate commitments.

Send a Card to Your MP



Your MP has a critical role to play in representing your concern for climate change in Parliament by putting pressure on the UK government to live up to its promises and lead the world to a safer future. Please ask your MP to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor, requesting they mobilise every government Department to deliver on the Climate Change Committee's advice, and provide a response on how they are going to do that.

Step 1: Fill in the card and add a bit about why you want your MP to champion climate action after COP26. Then fold your card (instructions on the next page)

Step 2: Attach a crafted heart if you've made one or a picture of your green heart - don't forget to add the name of your community group if you're part of one!

Step 3: Pop the folded card and heart in an envelope and send it to your MP. You can find their constituency surgery address at members.parliament.uk or alternatively send it to House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Step 4: Keep an eye out for their response - if you hear back please email campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org

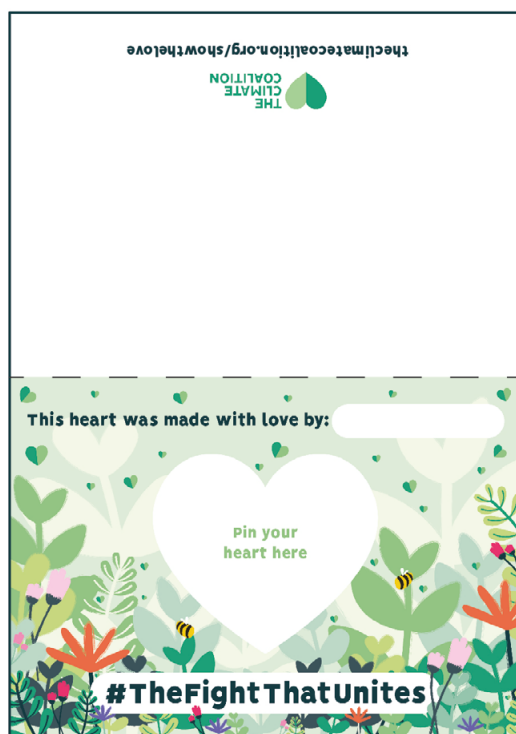
Folding Your Card

Fold along this line first



Then along
this line

And you should end
up with something
like this



#TheFightThatUnites

Pin your
heart here

This heart was made with love by:

Dear

I want to see urgent action to protect what I love from the climate crisis. I'm sharing this green heart with you because...

MP,

Will you keep up the momentum on climate change after COP26? Join #TheFightThatUnites and champion climate action across all government departments.

Please show your support by:

- Sharing a photo of this green heart on social media, pledging your support to protect all that we could lose to the climate crisis - don't forget to tag @thecoalition and use #TheFightThatUnites
- Writing to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to ask how the Government will - as a starting point - meet the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee and ensure all government departments prioritise climate action. A draft letter can be found on theclimatecoalition.org/showthelove/mp

Thank you

Name:

Postcode:

Email/phone:

Organisation/group:

theclimatecoalition.org



theclimatecoalition.org/showthelove