



Matt Western MP
Warwick & Leamington

Year 6 Pupils, C/o Mrs Liz Garrett
All Saints C of E Junior School
Nelson Avenue
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CV34 5LY

13th June 2023

Dear Year 6,

It was good to meet with you on 28th April for the Climate Change Discussion on the topic of Plastic Pollution. Many thanks for your extremely well written and knowledgeable letters voicing your concerns on a wide variety of issues that are very important to you. You have all thought about your concerns very deeply and seriously, and I was very much impressed by your dedication to each concern or campaign.

As an MP in Opposition, I do what I can to raise these issues and concerns with the Government. Among other commitments I am Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Electric Vehicles and Vice Chair for the APPG on Climate Change.

Your main concerns covered 1. Pollution – particularly plastic and how it damages the environment, 2. Climate change and fossil fuels, 3. Deforestation and 4. Electric vehicles.

1. I am concerned about the throwaway economy and culture. The Government have announced that from October there will be a ban on single-use plastics, which is welcome. I believe tackling waste, improving recycling rates and protecting our environment and our planet are tasks we must do together, but I am concerned the Government's plan to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2042 is behind schedule.
2. We need to put climate at the heart of the agenda for a fairer, greener future. New renewables are nine times cheaper than gas. They would not only help fight the climate crisis, but also reduce our reliance on energy from overseas, bring down bills and create jobs. I support calls to make our electricity system fossil fuel free by 2030, including by quadrupling offshore wind, doubling onshore wind and more than tripling solar. We should also make energy efficiency a national mission, insulating 19 million homes across the UK. As an individual, I built a low carbon house 12 years ago and cycle whenever possible.
3. There must be urgent action to make sure that UK companies do not trade on the back of rainforest destruction. We must ensure that we know exactly where the products we buy come from and do not cause adverse environmental and human rights impacts, including deforestation. I have previously voted for a bold, ambitious tree planting programme here, as we need more trees and better protections to restore our most vulnerable habitats. However, this was voted down.
4. Electric vehicle ownership must be affordable and accessible for everyone. I support calls for the Government to offer interest-free loans for new and used electric vehicles to those on low to middle incomes, and to trial a national scrappage scheme for people who want to trade in their old cars. It is also why I support accelerating the roll-out of on-street charging points, targeting areas of the country that have been left out so far.

I am sure you will all continue to be concerned, interested, and involved in all these and other important issues on a national and international level, today and into the future.

Yours sincerely

Matt Western
MP for Warwick and Leamington

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