

The Editor
The Oxford Times
Newspaper House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EJ

34 Binsey Lane
Oxford
OX2 0EX

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Sir,

In March this year the Government published its draft Climate Change Bill, which sets out a legally binding framework for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions which lead to climate change. This is now in a consultation phase, in which members of the public are invited to submit their comments by 12 June.

As representatives of local environmental and community groups in Oxfordshire, we welcome this development, but we believe the current draft of the Bill does not go far enough towards achieving the size of emissions cuts we need.

- The Bill's target of a 60% cut in carbon dioxide by 2050 needs to be at least 80% to take account of the latest science.
- The draft Bill proposes 5-year "carbon budgets", but this is longer than the electoral cycle and so would make it too easy for successive governments to blame each other for any failure to meet the targets. Instead, we propose 3% cuts every year.
- The two fastest growing sources of emissions, international aviation and shipping, are excluded from the bill.
- The Bill should increase aid targets to help communities in poor countries adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The consultation offers an opportunity for these and other shortcomings to be addressed, and we therefore encourage your readers to respond to it by visiting the *I Count* website at www.icount.org.uk or writing to Patrick Erwin / James Hardy, Climate Change Legislation Team, Area 4/F5, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6DE.

Yours sincerely,

Colette Humphrey, Banbury Friends of the Earth
Maureen Dyroff, Chinnor & Thame Friends of the Earth
Hilary Blake, Christian Aid, Oxford Unit
Maranda St John Nicolle, Christian Concern for One World
Tim Baster, Climate Outreach and Information Network
Jill Haas, Oxford Campaign against Climate Change
Karl Wallendszus, Oxford Friends of the Earth
David Taylor, Oxford Oxfam Group
Ingrid Royle, Oxfordshire Greenpeace Group
Kevin Meaney, Oxford World Development Movement Group
Martin Hodson, Sage (Oxford's Christian Environmental Group)
Simon Pratt, Sustrans South East Regional Office
Adam Twine, Director, Westmill Wind Farm Co-operative Ltd
Courtney Musser