

[The climate emergency is not going away: Amelia Womack on the need for long term action on flooding](#)



Green Party

25 February 2020

Green Party deputy leader Amelia Womack said:

Just because the floodwaters will eventually go down doesn't mean that the climate emergency is going away. We can't only focus on floods when there's a photo opportunity for a politician who has never used a mop in their life. This demands serious, long term action.

We can keep pouring concrete and building barriers, but the water will always find a way over as extreme weather gets worse and worse. What we need is better land management in the uplands, rewilding our countryside to make our environment more absorbent and resilient.

Above all, we need to decarbonise by 2030, taking real climate action which stops our winters getting wetter and wetter. There's no doubt about it – this is climate change, and it's not just at our door, it's in our living rooms. Only a Green New Deal can keep us on dry land.

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[Green Party's Caroline Russell responds to new Heathrow third runway](#)

report



Green Party

25 February 2020

The New Economics Foundation has today [Tuesday 25 February] published a new report which shows the Heathrow third runway expansion would introduce an additional 3 to 4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent into the economy.

Caroline Russell, London Assembly Member and Green Party spokesperson for transport, said:

“This report lays bare the hugely damaging consequences of expansion at Heathrow. Not only would the third runway make it harder to meet our climate commitments but it would also worsen regional economic inequality.

“At a time when the Prime Minister is talking about ‘levelling up’ regions across the UK, this is yet another clear example where the government’s words and actions just do not match up.

“Rather than promoting flying, the dirtiest mode of transport, in one of the most well-connected cities in the world, the government should be investing in green and affordable transport so communities across the country have clean, safe and convenient options for their journeys.”

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[Green Party peer Natalie Bennett responds to government’s post-Brexit](#)

immigration plans



Green Party

19 February 2020

Responding to the government's proposals for its post-Brexit immigration plan, Green Party peer Natalie Bennett said:

"The UK has always been a country of immigrants and emigrants. This short-sighted and damaging proposal closes the door on both groups, for many countries will surely respond with similar restrictions on Britons. Immigrants contribute so much to our country's prosperity and cultural and community life, we will all be the poorer under these plans.

"Whether it's caring for us in hospital or providing day to day services we all rely on, migrants have played a huge role in making the UK a richer and more interesting country for all.

"Many traditional large and small business backers of the Tory Party are opposed to this move, and it is clear this is dog-whistle politics, playing to populist, discriminatory agendas.

"Instead of demonising migrants we should be recognising the immense contribution they make to this country and continue the free movement for EU citizens – with the corresponding rights for UK citizens across Europe. Young people should not have fewer freedoms and opportunities than their parents had."

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Green Party responds to appointment of George Eustice as new Environment Secretary



Green Party

13 February 2020

Green Party co-leader Jonathan Bartley said:

“Theresa Villiers’ time as environment secretary was short yet still managed to be a missed opportunity. The Environment Bill she introduced actually weakened environmental protections when it should have done everything it could to tackle the catastrophic collapse in nature we are currently facing.

“George Eustice has now been given one of the most important jobs in government at a critical time. However, here is a man who has regularly voted against measures to address the climate crisis, supported the sell-off of state owned forests and has received a donation from a director of a climate sceptic organisation.

“At a time when the UK must lead the way by placing environmental protections ahead of economic growth and prioritising the well-being of people and nature, this is yet more time-wasting by a Prime Minister who fails to understand the urgency of the climate crisis.”

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Treasury is in need of a radical shake

up – Green Party statement on reshuffle



Green Party

13 February 2020

Green Party peer and former leader Natalie Bennett said:

“The Treasury is in urgent need of a radical shake up, but we won’t get the reform we need from a Conservative government.

“The pursuit of endless growth has pushed our climate over a cliff, while failing to tackle poverty in the sixth richest nation in the world. We need to repurpose our economy to put people and planet first, investing in a Green New Deal and measuring the things which really matter like wellbeing, free time and environmental health, not just GDP.

“With Johnson and Cummings now pulling the strings of the Chancellor like never before, expect more of the free market fundamentalism which is turbo charging the climate crisis and driving millions into misery. In an age of climate emergency, we need real reform of our economy.”

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