

Caroline Lucas: Budget 'a slap in the face for headteachers'



Green Party

29 October 2018

Responding to the Budget, Green Party MP Caroline Lucas said:

“This Budget laid bare just how out of touch this Government is. Philip Hammond’s pittance for schools to buy ‘little extras’ is a slap in the face for headteachers who can’t cover the basic costs of staff, building repairs and support for children with special educational needs. And once again our struggling colleges went ignored.

“His extra funding for Universal Credit, which has plunged thousands into financial difficulty across Brighton, doesn’t begin to repair the damage caused by yearly welfare payment freezes and austerity.

“And worst of all, just two weeks after the world’s top scientists warned we have 12 years to avoid complete climate breakdown, the Chancellor failed to even mention climate change.

“The only good news came for Brighton’s vibrant small businesses with the drop in business rates I’ve long campaigned for. Now he must match that support with replacement funding for local authorities, who rely on the money raised from rates.

“This Budget wrote off our children’s futures while making no tangible difference to people’s lives in Brighton. The Chancellor won’t be forgiven.”

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Molly Scott Cato responds to 2018 budget



Green Party

29 October 2018

Responding to today's budget, Green MEP for the South West, Molly Scott Cato, said:

"Greens said that this must be an emergency budget for the climate and that it would fail if a single pound was spent on climate wrecking projects [1].

"Well, we witnessed billions splashed on climate wreckage, yet not a single mention of the word climate. This despite the fact scientists warned just a few weeks ago that we have a 12-year window to transition our economy and society away from fossil fuels [2].

"Rather than action to avert climate breakdown we saw the chancellor accelerate faster towards it, throwing £30bn at road building and freezing fuel duty for the ninth year running. This now amounts to a £9bn tax give-away, enough to reverse all Conservative benefit cuts of the past 8 years. Compare these eye-watering sums to the pittance given towards the environment – just £60 million to plant a few trees.

"As well as an assault on our climate this budget was a huge missed economic opportunity. This could have been a budget to turbo charge the idea of the Western Powerhouse, offering support and incentives to exploit the huge potential for renewable energy resources across the South West region. Off-shore and on-shore wind, solar, tidal and thermal power could provide for all the region's energy needs and create thousands of jobs in the process [3]."

[1] <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2018/10/26/greens-autumn-budget-will-fail-if-single-pound-spent-on-climate-wrecking-projects/>

[2] <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/08/global-warming-must-not-exceed-15c-warns-landmark-un-report>

[3] <http://mollymep.org.uk/2015/04/17/power-to-transform/>

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[Caroline Lucas responds to Budget: “not clear what planet Philip Hammond is living on”](#)



Green Party

29 October 2018

Responding to the Budget, Green Party MP Caroline Lucas said: “Did the Chancellor lose a section of his speech? This is the most nature-depleted Budget in decades. His biggest announcement on the environment was abandoning the latte levy, and with it the pretence of caring about our natural world.

“Two weeks ago, the world’s top scientists warned we have just 12 years to prevent climate catastrophe – so today we urgently needed an emergency budget with major investment in green energy and jobs to protect the planet. It’s unforgivable that Philip Hammond failed to even mention climate change.

“It’s not clear what planet Philip Hammond is living on – but it is his responsibility to do something to protect those of us living on this one. His deluded Budget was built on a fantasy future where the technical revolution will solve all of society’s problems.

“He spent more on fixing potholes than funding schools and lavished billions on locking us into our cars as public transport deteriorates. Our children will never forgive him.”

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Greens: Autumn Budget will fail if single pound spent on climate wrecking projects



Green Party

26 October 2018

*** Green Party says first Autumn Budget since IPCC report must be an 'emergency budget for the climate'**

*** Jonathan Bartley: "This is the Chancellor's clear opportunity to stop bankrolling climate destruction and invest in clean energy instead"**

The Green Party has called on the Government to respond to the UN's climate warning by making the Autumn Budget an "emergency budget for the climate".

The party will call on the Government to immediately stop fracking and scrap the fracking slush fund, airport expansion and fossil fuel subsidies – and to invest in renewable energy instead.

On 8 October the UN's IPCC report warned global governments have just 12 years to limit climate catastrophe [1]. Yet just a week later ministers allowed fracking to start in Lancashire, putting a sledgehammer through the UK's climate targets. [2]

The Green Party wants the Government to:

- * Immediately stop fracking and scrap the shale slush fund [3]
- * End airport expansion and introduce a frequent flyer levy [4]
- * Cancel Hinkley Point C nuclear station and invest in Swansea Tidal Lagoon instead [5]
- * Reinstate the fuel duty escalator [6]
- * Reverse the freezing of the carbon price-floor [7]

And end fossil fuel subsidies and invest in clean energy instead, starting with

- * Fully reinstating the feed-in tariff to incentivise household solar [8] and keep the export tariff on new solar installations [9]
- * Removing the block on community wind projects [10]
- * Launch a national programme of insulation and retrofitting to make every home warm [11]

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, said:

“The last two Budgets failed to mention climate change. This is the Chancellor’s clear opportunity to stop bankrolling climate destruction and reprogramme the economy so it works for all of us by investing in clean renewable energy.

“If the Government spends a single pound on climate wrecking projects the Autumn Budget will have failed.

“In the wake of the UN’s warning that we are on the brink of complete climate breakdown the Chancellor must deliver nothing short of an emergency Budget for the climate.”

Notes:

1. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2018/10/08/caroline-lucas-responds-to-ipcc-report/>
2. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2018/10/15/greens-start-of-fracking-puts-sledgehammer-through-climate-targets/>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-back-british-shale-gas-exploration>
4. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2016/10/24/let%E2%80%99s-reduce-demand-for-flying,-not-build-climate-busting-runways/>
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-44589083>
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/oct/03/theresa-may-pledges-to-freeze-fuel-duty-for-ninth-consecutive-year>
7. <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN05927/SN05927.pdf>
8. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/23/green-energy-subsidies-community-projects-fossil-fuels>
9. <https://www.energylivenews.com/2018/10/18/is-removing-solar-tariff-literal-daylight-robbery/>
10. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/wind-power-onshore-policies-environmental-impact-government-collapse-a8334786.html>

11.

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2018/06/26/greens-rising-fuel-poverty-hitting-poorest-hardest/>

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[Opposition parties meet Michel Barnier](#)



Green Party

25 October 2018

Leading figures from opposition parties will meet Michel Barnier in Brussels today [Thursday] to say the UK must remain within the Single Market and the Customs Union.

The campaign to resolve Brexit through a People's Vote will also be discussed. The Green Party, Liberal Democrats, the SNP and Plaid Cymru have all said they would support the public having a say on the outcome of the Brexit negotiations in a vote in the House of Commons.

Last weekend saw hundreds of thousands of people march in London for the People's Vote and polling shows the option is increasingly the preferred choice across the UK.

The group will open a cross-party line of communication to the European Commission, so that officials are aware of Parliamentary progress made on securing the People's Vote, while continuing to make the case for the UK to stay within the Single Market and the Customs Union.

Those attending the meeting with Barnier will be: Molly Scott Cato, Green Party MEP for the South West of England and Gibraltar, Vince Cable, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Ian Blackford, Westminster Leader of the SNP and Liz Saville Roberts, Westminster Leader of Plaid Cymru.

Molly Scott Cato said:

“There is now Parliamentary paralysis on Brexit. The Chequers plan is dead, but neither is there support for alternative versions of Brexit being driven by a Brexit syndicate of far-right think tanks.

“It is clear the only way out of this deadlock is to hand the process back to the people. Last weekend 700,000 people marched in support of the People’s Vote; more than the combined membership of the Tories and Labour. The momentum behind this idea can no longer be ignored; it now looks unstoppable.”

Vince Cable said:

“Our ‘unholy alliance’ has provided a sensible counterpoint to the hard-line Brexiteers who have pushed the Conservatives and Labour’s frontbench into senseless and fudged positions. It is vital that Michel Barnier and the European Commission know that there is another view in Parliament, one that has cross-party support and that can get the EU and the UK out of this mess.

“I will also tell Michel Barnier that there are also brave Conservative and Labour rebels involved in leading this fight to give the people a final say. As a result, there is now tremendous Parliamentary and public pressure to hold that vote.”

Liz Saville Roberts said:

“Plaid Cymru will not stand by and allow the British Government, along with their collaborators in the Labour party, to drag Wales out of the Single Market and Customs Union. Negotiations between the Prime Minister and Michel Barnier have reached another embarrassing stalemate. The only realistic option available to us is to extend Article 50 and take the Withdrawal Agreement to a People’s Vote.

“Leaving the key European economic frameworks will wipe £5 billion off the Welsh economy. In making the case for a People’s Vote, I will impress upon the Chief EU Negotiator the full gravity of the impact of Brexit on Wales. The British Government has never had Wales’s best interest at heart.”

Ian Blackford said:

“While the UK Government clearly still has no plan to break the Brexit impasse, and Labour fail to act as an effective opposition, it has been left to the ‘unofficial opposition’ to speak up for a deal that would protect jobs and livelihoods. I am grateful to Mr Barnier for meeting with us.

“Any Brexit deal that falls short of staying in the Single Market and the Customs Union will not get through Parliament. It’s time for Theresa May to drop the jargon, quit playing games and act to protect our economic future.”

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