

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

1 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Please accept our support during these unprecedented times. As with all UK businesses, we are committed to ensuring that all possible efforts are made to save lives and tackle the current health crisis and resulting economic downturn.

With the UK facing major economic and social concerns including the risk of high unemployment and rising regional inequality, we believe that an ambitious low carbon growth and environmental improvement agenda can do a lot to address these concerns, as well as make the UK economy better prepared to deal with future shocks such as those related to climate change. We are therefore writing to ask that the economic recovery plans you are developing align with the UK's wider goals and deliver a clean, just recovery, that creates quality employment and builds a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient UK economy for the future.

A wide range of input, from [academic experts](#) to city [leaders](#) to official [advice](#), has shown measures that cut greenhouse gas emissions and stimulate the economy have the potential to be more effective in supporting jobs and economic growth whilst also supporting our long term climate goals and delivering better outcomes in other key areas of public interest, such as public health and wellbeing. In addition, investments in industries and projects such as building renovation, offshore wind, electric vehicles, environmental improvements and low carbon industrial clusters have the potential to bring investment and job creation across multiple regions of the UK.

As businesses and business groups operating in the UK, we reaffirm our commitment to action on climate change and our determination to create a cleaner, competitive and inclusive UK economy. The current crisis, in moving us all away from business-as-usual, has already created shifts in how we operate, and we believe we must use the recovery to accelerate the transition to net zero. Efforts to rescue and repair the economy in response to the current crisis can and should be aligned with the UK's legislated target of net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.

We therefore ask you to provide a clear vision for government recovery efforts, ensuring they:

- Drive investment in low carbon innovation, infrastructure and industries, as well as improved resilience to future environmental risks. This should include a combination of targeted public investment and clear policy signals to support growing private sector investment, such as tax incentives and carbon pricing.
- Focus support on sectors and activities that can best support sustainable growth, increased job creation and accelerate both the recovery and the decarbonisation of the economy. For example, building construction, renovation and energy efficiency, low-carbon power and mobility infrastructure, natural environmental improvements, and innovation to decarbonise hard to abate sectors.
- Include within financial support packages measures to ensure receiving businesses are well managed and their strategies are science based and aligned with national climate goals.

Since the Climate Change Act came into law, the UK has made significant progress in reducing its emissions at the same time as delivering economic growth. The net zero and environmental agenda now provide the UK government with the opportunity to rebuild the economy back better in a way that will deliver lasting social, competitiveness and resilience benefits. Taking such an approach for the recovery will also strengthen the UK's leadership and influence at the COP26 and G7 summits that it will be hosting in 2021.

As we enter the recovery period, we are ready to work with you and your government to implement the steps needed to rebuild and strengthen the UK economy, while accelerating decarbonisation and ensuring we are on track to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest.

Yours,

Ron Cowley, CEO, Active Building Centre

Amanda Stevenson, Director, Adapt Sustainability Consulting Ltd

Alan Lusty, CEO, adi Group

David Barwell, Chief Executive, UK & Ireland, AECOM

Oliver Mendelsohn, CEO, Akustak® (Cusp London Ltd)

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Nick Molho, Executive Director, Aldersgate Group

Martin Clark, CEO, Allia Impact

Naomi Pendleton, Groups Sustainability Director, AM FRESH Group

Peter Simpson, Chief Executive, Anglian Water Group and Co-Chair, The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group

Stuart McLachlan, CEO, Anthesis Group

Jack Harvie-Clark, Director, Apex Acoustics Ltd

David Partridge, Senior Partner, Argent LLP and Chair of the Board of Trustees, UKGBC

Dominic Kirby, Managing Director, ArgoGlobal

Nigel Tonks, Director, Arup

Roger Burnley, President and CEO, ASDA

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Steve Waygood, Chief Responsible Investment Officer, Aviva Investors

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John Ball, Chief Executive, Church of England Pensions Board

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Andrew Bell, Chief Executive, Witan Investment Trust

Paul Tremble, Chief Strategy Officer, WSP

Liz Barber, CEO, Yorkshire Water







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SHEPPARD ROBSON



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Spatial
Dimensions
Because Measurement Matters



Standard Life Aberdeen

Studio**DS**



sweetmans
and partners



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A TRAMMELL CROW COMPANY DEVELOPER

TERRITORIO



Triodos  Bank

Twinn
Sustainability
Innovation
Buildings that do not cost the Earth



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BUSINESS
COALITION

WESLEYAN
we are all about you

