

the co-operative party

2019 Policy consultation - discussion paper

Climate change, energy and environment

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See also: Background briefing - Climate change, energy and environment

The policy process 2019

The Co-operative Party is member-led, and so we derive our policy platform from the experiences, ideas and principles of our members, our subscribing societies, and the wider co-operative movement.

The Co-operative Party will invite the views of its members through an open consultation with individual members, Party units, co-operative societies, and the wider co-operative movement, asking for their responses to the questions below.

This will run from January to mid-June 2019, and support will be given to local parties to convene their members for policy discussions. In particular, as climate change and the environment is a UK-wide issue, we will work closely to support Parties in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to ensure the views of their members are well represented. Alongside this, the voice of our wider movement is important – given the work that many of our societies and organisations have done to lead the fight against climate change and to raise environmental standards, from renewable energy to single use plastics.

Responses will be collated for review by the NEC's policy sub-committee. The points raised will be brought together into a policy platform on climate change and the environment which will be debated at Conference in 2019.

Questions to consider

1. What do you feel are the most pressing challenges facing the environment and climate?
 - a. In your local area?
 - b. Nationally?
 - c. Globally/ internationally?
2. What do you think should be at the forefront of the government's approach to the environment and climate change? How can the UK show leadership on this?
3. What policies are needed to make real progress on the following key environmental issues:
 - a. Environmental standards
 - b. Conservation and biodiversity
 - c. Air quality
 - d. Recycling
 - e. Single use plastics
4. What examples of good practice have you come across with regards to protecting or improving our environment and climate - whether in your local community, within the co-operative movement, your council, nationally or examples from abroad?
5. The government has cut support for community energy schemes, from tax relief to feed-in tariffs. In addition to reversing these cuts, how do you feel it could be made easier for communities to come together to develop and own renewable energy co-operatively?
6. From shipping and freight to personal cars and international tourism, transport accounts for a quarter of global CO₂ emissions, as well as being the main cause of air pollution in cities, disrupting habitats and polluting our seas. How can we shift to low emission mobility and trade, whether locally or globally?
7. What role should national governments, local authorities and the co-operative movement play in changing the behaviour of individuals and businesses, to help them to make more sustainable choices?
8. Transition to a greener economy requires rapid change - particularly for those older, more polluting industries and in sectors like energy and transport. How can the social challenges of this transition - such as the impact of petrol price rises, a decline in traditional manufacturing in favour of new green jobs, or growing immigration from parts of the world most impacted by climate change related conflict - be addressed and mitigated?

How to respond

Local parties and individuals can respond to these consultation questions by either uploading a document or answering a short online questionnaire.

Submit your response at
www.party.coop/policy/new