

Dear XR hunger strikers



Thank you for the actions you are taking to draw attention to the emergency facing our people and planet. I am delighted to endorse your call to tell the truth, act now, and work for alliances beyond party politics.

Not only do I endorse these principles, but the Labour party is already putting them into action through its Green Industrial Strategy, with the most ambitious targets for decarbonisation in the world. The kind of far-reaching systems change that we need will require the collective action of many people, and many tactics. We are indebted to the pioneering efforts of the Green Party who we have worked with closely in shaping this policy. We are inspired by movements like your own.

We are telling the truth about the scale of the task facing us, and the urgency of climate action. We are also telling the truth about the need for social justice to be part of the solution. Our radical plans have the support of millions of ordinary people in our movement and beyond.

My own track record shows my commitment to climate action. I have campaigned for fossil fuel divestment, persuading our own MP to sign up to Divest Parliament. I'm a member of Frack Free Totnes and Plastic Free Totnes. I spoke up for the declaration of a climate emergency by Totnes Town Council, led by our Green Mayor Jacqui Hodson, and contributed to our town's Climate Action Planning week. Last Saturday I was proud to share a platform with Dr Patrick O'Sullivan, one of the architects of the Green New Deal, and Ben Stollery, an XR activist. We called jointly for this to be a climate election and for a transformation in the way we do politics.

I promise that if I am elected as your MP, I will continue to press within the Labour Party and within parliament for the most urgent action and the most ambitious targets, recognising that even the 2030 target risks catastrophe for people in the global south and for ecosystems around the planet. And I will convene a local Citizens' Assembly on the Climate Emergency here in Totnes to make sure we act locally in full recognition of the truth.

This election provides an opportunity to reverse the impacts of climate change and economic inequality before it's too late. That is an opportunity that we - and millions of people around the planet - can't afford to miss. We believe that this election is in so many ways the fight of our lives. We hope you do too and we invite you to come out and join us.

Louise Webberley, Labour Candidate for Totnes