

THE BIG SHIFT

Campaign Briefing



Why are we campaigning on fossil fuels?

Cassette tapes. Dial-up internet. Three-wheeled cars. There are some things that are so behind the times that no-one in their right mind would invest in them today. Extracting and burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) will soon be top of that list because we know that they are unsustainable, they are hurting our earth, and burning them accelerates the warming of our world.

The shift towards renewable energy is already in motion, but we need to quicken the pace. We have the opportunity to join in with God's work of renewing creation, and liberating the millions of the world's poorest people already feeling the impact of climate change by leaving fossil fuels behind. We can do this by shifting our money and actions to where our prayers are, into a clean alternative for our energy, for a better future for the whole of humanity.

It's time to leave fossil fuels behind in the past and shift towards a fairer and brighter future.

What are we asking for?

We need to leave all fossil fuels behind, and we're starting with coal. Coal is the single biggest source of CO₂ pollution both worldwide and in the UK.

We want the UK Government to make a clear commitment to phase out the burning of coal in the UK – by 2023 – along with a published, concrete plan that gives sufficient certainty to industry and investors.

It needs to work with the Department for Business to ensure that UK Export Finance no longer supports any form of coal extraction abroad, as a way of showing global leadership.

We hope that any finance made available by such moves can be reinvested in ways that help us create new green jobs and a low-carbon economy worldwide.

What can you do?

Firstly, from September download and print off Christian Aid's petition sheet from christianaid.org.uk/climate-resources. Ask your friends and church to get involved by signing the petition, which asks the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to take concrete steps to phase out coal in the UK as a matter of urgency.

Secondly, from October organise a church letter-writing session and write to your local MP. Ask them to join us in asking DECC to take concrete steps to phase out coal in the UK as a matter of urgency, and to play a lead role in bringing about a global phase-out of coal. You'll be able to download our tips for letter-writing on our climate resources webpage:

christianaid.org.uk/climate-resources

Lastly (for now!), in the run up to the Paris climate negotiations this winter, we invite you to come and join us alongside thousands of others for **The People's March for climate justice on 28 November in Edinburgh or 29 November in London**. We'll show that people are ahead of governments in our desire for meaningful, fair action to tackle climate change, to put pressure on world leaders as they make commitments to tackle climate change.



Leave fossil fuels behind and let's shift towards a cleaner, fairer, brighter future.