

The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) is the UK's largest national voluntary organisation for women. It has 211,000 members, in 6,800 Women's Institutes across England, Wales and the Islands. It is an educational, social and non-party political and non-sectarian organisation.

The NFWI has a long-standing history of commitment to consumer and environmental affairs. NFWI policy is created via a year long process where issues are discussed throughout the membership and resolutions are adopted at the NFWI's AGM.

The NFWI welcomes the opportunity to represent the views of WI members by contributing to this important consultation on the Climate Change Bill. Women have a distinct relationship to climate change. Across the world, women and girls are already suffering disproportionately as a consequence of climate change, whilst in the UK women are largely responsible for many of the domestic decisions relating to energy, the home and transport.

At our AGM in 2005 WI members voted overwhelmingly to take action to preserve our planet for future generations. A year later, at the AGM in 2006, a resolution was passed on renewable energy, calling for mandatory legislation and policy to be put in place requiring the use of renewable energy technologies in all new buildings, re-building and renovation. These two resolutions, in particular, have given the WI a mandate to call for real change on environmental policies in order to address the issues of limited natural resources, the increasingly fragile state of our environment and climate change.

The NFWI welcomes the Climate Change Bill and the introduction of long term targets. However, we feel it is imperative that this Bill demands action to meet an appropriate target by 2050 to ensure that the UK's total emissions remain inside our "fair share" of the total global greenhouse gas emissions without raising the global temperature by more than 2 degrees Celsius.

To meet these aims, we believe that the current science demonstrates that the suggested 60% reduction target is no longer appropriate, and that an 80% reduction is an absolute minimum target for the UK.

We believe that it is crucial that the Climate Change Bill includes annual milestones that include aviation and shipping emissions, with annual reporting against these targets by an independent committee with the power to advise on the level of corrective action to be taken if carbon emissions go over budget.

The NFWI firmly believes that an 80% reduction target for greenhouse gas emissions within the UK by 2050 and the inclusion of a carbon budgeting approach with annual milestone should be at the heart of the Climate Change Bill.

The NFWI joined the Stop Climate Chaos (SCC) coalition in September 2005. In addition to this statement the NFWI endorses the full response of SCC to this Defra consultation on the Climate Change Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Fay Mansell
NFWWI Chair