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Our ref: PO4063
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From the Minister of State for Climate Change & Environment
Ian Pearson MP

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December detailing the motion adopted by Oxford City Council.

The Government believes that action must be taken at every level to combat climate change. I am hugely encouraged to read about your council's proposed motion and glad that I can count on your support in taking action to tackle climate change.

Your motion calls for binding annual targets to be included in the forthcoming Climate Change Bill. However, annual emissions are affected by things beyond the control of the Government, such as fluctuations in the weather and energy prices. For this reason, annual targets were rejected in the international climate change negotiations in favour of a longer timeframe and will not be included in the proposed Climate Change Bill. We are, however, currently considering appropriate interim targets and we aim to come back to Parliament with further details on these in the near future.

Our aim is to create legislation that will help in the battle against climate change, support the efforts to join individual activity with business and Government leadership, and link domestic and international action. The UK is on target to meet our Kyoto commitments on greenhouse gas emission reductions. In fact we are likely to do double what is required. However, the Government is not complacent – we can and we must do more. What we are proposing represents an ambitious and coherent package.

IAN PEARSON



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

