

# THE TIME IS NOW

LOBBY GUIDE



## A MASS LOBBY FOR OUR CLIMATE, NATURE, AND PEOPLE.



JOIN THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN  
WESTMINSTER TO TELL MPS THE TIME IS NOW  
FOR ACTION.

WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE, 1PM  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON

# THE TIME IS NOW TO FIGHT FOR OUR CLIMATE, NATURE, AND PEOPLE.



On 26th June thousands of us will gather at Westminster, central London, to call on our politicians to set the foundations for a brighter, greener and safer world. People across the globe are suffering from the effects of climate change and our wildlife populations are being wiped out. **The time is now** for MPs to end the UK's contribution to climate change and pass ambitious laws that create a healthier environment for nature and people. We simply don't have time to waste.

## WHY NOW?



Life as we know it is at stake. The earth's alarm clock is ringing. Climate change is the single biggest threat to our planet. Our oceans are choking in plastic, we are breathing in dirty air and nature is struggling to survive. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to protect and restore the earth we love. Together we will call for stronger laws to protect our climate, nature and people.

## THIS SUMMER WILL SEE THE GOVERNMENT:



Decide whether to commit to end the UK's contribution to climate change by setting a net zero emissions target.



Propose ambitious new laws which would clean up our air, slash plastic pollution and restore wildlife to our countryside.

**"WE ARE THE FIRST GENERATION TO KNOW WE ARE DESTROYING THE WORLD, AND THE LAST THAT CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. MPS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT URGENCY AND ACT NOW TO RESTORE NATURE AND STOP CLIMATE DISASTER." –FANNY CALDER, WWF**

## WHY MEET MPS?

Members of Parliament are there to represent us — that's their job — so we need to tell them what we want. Not many people contact their MP; only a handful write letters or go and meet their MP in person. So imagine the impact that thousands of us turning up to talk to our MPs will have!

At a time when political parties are becoming increasingly divided, we need to ensure the government doesn't lose momentum on tackling climate change and the big issues affecting our environment. Let's show that regardless of political differences we want them to act now.

***"10 years ago, the UK was leading the way on combatting climate change. But recent reports show we need to make more drastic changes, now." –Daniel Hale, CAFOD***

## THE WI PRE-MEET

**WE WILL BE WELCOMING WI MEMBERS\* FROM 10.30AM AT:**

**THE MOTHER'S UNION  
MARY SUMNER HOUSE  
24 TUFTON STREET  
LONDON, SW1P 3RB**

*\*Please note only WI members who have pre-registered their attendance with the NFWI via our form will be able to come to the pre-meet.*

Refreshments and sandwiches will be provided. We will have the room until 5pm so you are welcome to leave belongings here, at your own risk, and collect them after you have met your MP. All items will need to be removed by 5pm.

### AGENDA

<b>10.45–10.55AM</b>	<b>WELCOME FROM NFWI VICE-CHAIR ANN JONES</b>
<b>10.55–11.30AM</b>	<b>TALKING TO YOUR MP WORKSHOP – TOP TIPS AND Q &amp; A</b>
<b>11.30AM–12PM</b>	<b>BREAK FOR SANDWICHES/ TEA AND COFFEE</b>
<b>12–12.10PM</b>	<b>WALK TO VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS*</b>
<b>12.10–12.30PM</b>	<b>PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AT VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS*</b>
<b>12.30PM</b>	<b>START WALKING TOWARDS THE QUEUE</b>

*\*We would like to organise a group photo of all WI members present for our social media channels and use this as a chance to showcase our 5 metre climate scarf. The scarf has been knitted by Cambridge Federation and highlights the gradual rise in temperature over the past 100 years. Please note the photo is not obligatory.*



For any WI members coming along, we'd like everyone to **wear green** and to **bring along banners and placards** that represent your local WI. We will have a selection of placards but it would be great for you to bring along your own too.

The talking to your MP workshop will be a chance for you to ask any questions you may have about talking to them on these issues. We will also run through what we are calling for and what we would like you to raise with your MP.

If you know of any other WI members who would like to join us, please direct them to the sign up link via our website: [thewi.org.uk/s/masslobby](https://thewi.org.uk/s/masslobby) or email us at [pa@nfwl.org.uk](mailto:pa@nfwl.org.uk)

**If you are no longer able to attend the lobby but have previously signed up with us, then please let us know as soon as you can.**

### MEETING POINT FOR MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING THE PRE-MEET

For any members who aren't able to come to the pre-meet venue please do join us for the photo opportunity at 12.10pm at Victoria Tower Gardens SW1P 3JA.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON JUNE 26TH



### ARRIVAL

If you are arriving by Tube there will be volunteers on hand to direct you to the lobby.

The lobby line is from the Houses of Parliament down to Lambeth Bridge and back along the other side of the river Thames. There will be signposts for regions and constituencies — see the map opposite for details.

### 1PM: THE LOBBY BEGINS

It may take a while to find your constituency's area, so please allow plenty of time and ensure you're in the lobby line by 1pm.



### 1-4PM: MEET OUR MPS AROUND PARLIAMENT

10,000 of us will meet with our MPs in the streets around Parliament, all at the same time! See page 8 to find out how this will work.

### AT 2PM WE WILL PAUSE FOR A MINUTE IN THE LOBBY LINE TO CREATE A NOISE SO LOUD POLITICIANS WON'T BE ABLE TO IGNORE IT

See page 8 for details

### WHAT'S HAPPENING NEARBY?

#### ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE | FROM 11:30AM

Got questions about the day? Want to have a sit down and hear updates from the lobby? Head to St John's Smith Square where you'll find the info hub and stalls from different organisations. There will be interviews, film clips and updates from what's happening at the lobby!

### CONTACT ON THE DAY

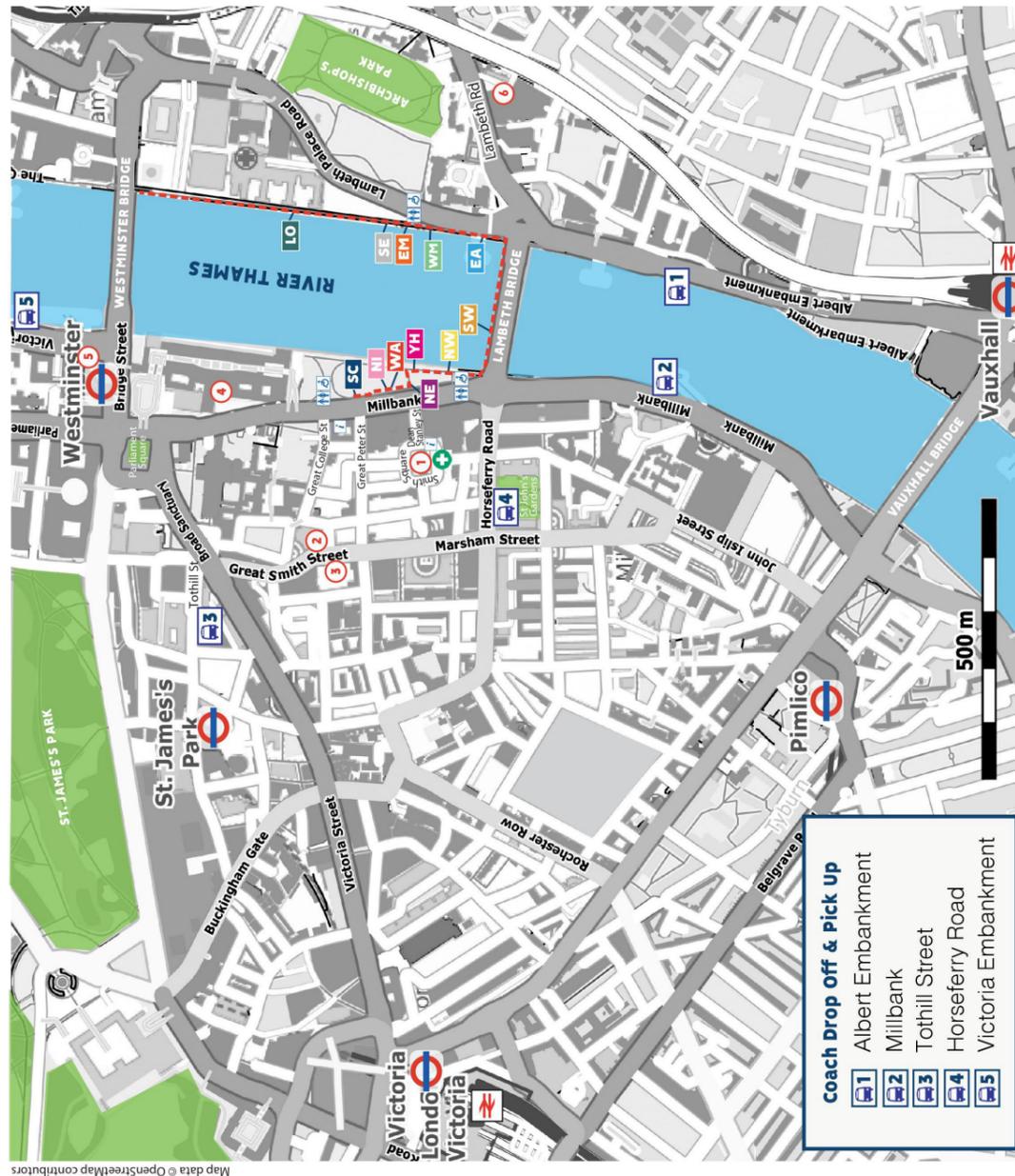
Your main points of contact on the day will be Sophie Page, Aanchal Mann and Emma Holland-Lindsay. Emergency contact on the day is Emma on 07980 51860

**EVENT AREA MAP**

Lobby Line .....  
**Lobby Locations**  
 SC Scotland  
 NI Northern Ireland  
 WA Wales  
 NE North East  
 YH Yorkshire & Humber  
 NW North West  
 SW South West  
 EA East Anglia  
 WM West Midlands  
 EM East Midlands  
 SE South East  
 LO London

1 Lobby HQ (St John's Smith Square)  
 2 Church House  
 3 The Abbey Centre  
 4 Houses of Parliament  
 5 Portcullis House  
 6 Old Paradise Gardens

Toilets  
 First Aid  
 Tube Station  
 National Rail Station



## WHAT DO WE WANT MPS TO DO?

We know that MPs view WI members as trusted messengers in society. This is your chance to highlight that we need them to take the lead in safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Different organisations we will be asking their MPs different things however the WI's two core asks will focus around:

1. Climate change: Net-zero target for greenhouse gas emissions
2. Plastic pollution: The Environment Bill

### 1. ASK THE PRIME MINISTER TO SUPPORT A NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TARGET BY 2045 AT THE LATEST



The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement was an important milestone – the world committed to keeping global warming to well below 2°C, aiming for 1.5°C. However, following the publication of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, it's clear that it is vital to keep warming to 1.5°C in order to limit the risks of severe climate impacts to people and nature. For coral reefs, that's the difference between life and extinction as they won't survive at 2°C warming.

The only way to meet our international commitment to keep the planet's temperature rise below 1.5°C is for the UK to show leadership by setting an ambitious net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target. We are calling for the government to pass into law a target where our overall greenhouse gas emissions including domestic, industry and travel emissions are equal to zero by 2045 at the latest.

This means reducing our emissions by as much as possible, and then using technology and land use practices to remove the remainder from the atmosphere until we reach a net of zero emissions.

This summer we will see the government decide whether they should commit to a net zero emissions target, based on the Committee on Climate Change's advice which recommended a target by 2050. We need to ensure MPs put pressure on the Prime Minister to set a more ambitious and achievable target of reaching net zero by 2045.

It would be useful to check whether your MP has already signed a letter supporting net-zero, this will then inform how you speak to your MP about this issue on the day. You can see the list of MPs signed up here: [www.theclimatecoalition.org/joint-letter](http://www.theclimatecoalition.org/joint-letter)

If your MP already supports a net zero emissions target then remember to thank them and ask them to write to the Prime Minister outlining their support. Perhaps you could talk to them about additional commitments or how your local area might be able to help achieve the target?

**SHARE HOW YOU'RE ENJOYING THE DAY!**  
 Post your photos and updates on social media using  
 #TheTimesNow



## 2. ASK THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT TO INCLUDE A PLASTIC POLLUTION ACTION PLAN AS PART OF THE ENVIRONMENT BILL



The Environment Bill is the Government's bill to safeguard the environment once we leave the EU. This will be a key chance to ensure that achievable targets on plastic pollution will be included as part of the bill.

Building on our history of plastic pollution work and our 2017 End Plastic Soup campaign the NFWI believes that if we are to end the plastic tide we need action from government.

We support government efforts to improve recycling and tackle certain single use products. However, there is an urgent need to start producing and using less plastic in a strategic and systematic way – we simply can't recycle it all, pick it up or stem the flow with the current levels of plastic usage. We need a framework to begin addressing all types of plastic pollution, including the invisible sources of plastic pollution such as microplastic clothing fibres.

We have jointly called for, along with Friends of the Earth, a Plastic Pollution Action Plan which commits to near zero plastics pollution by 2042 and the phasing out of unnecessary single-use plastics by 2025 to be included as part of the Environment Bill.

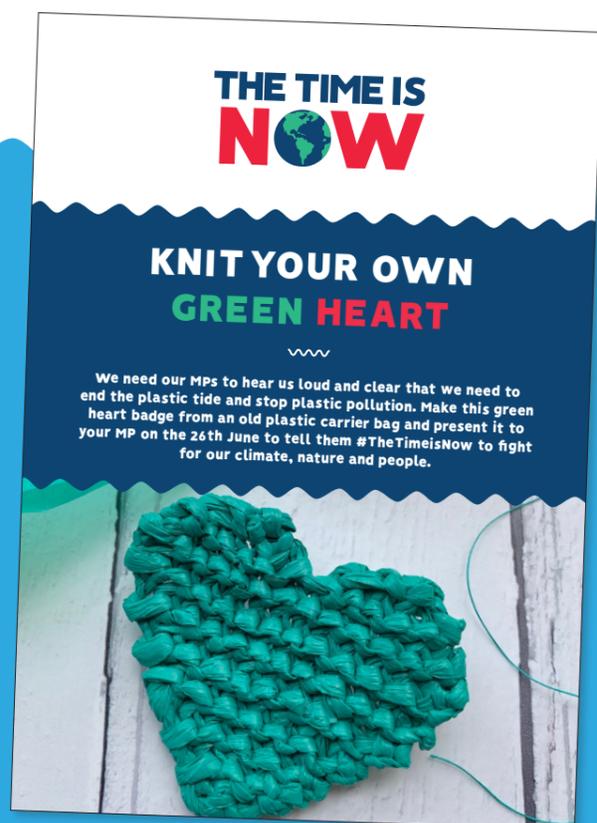
We would like MPs to ask the Secretary of State for the Environment to include these key targets as part of the Environment Bill to ensure current and future governments are able to continue to work to reduce plastic pollution.

### RESOURCES

We will have a briefing available outlining key talking points to raise with your MP on the day.

In addition to this guide we have step by step instructions on how to knit a heart badge for your MP made from plastic bags. Make sure you give this to them on the day for them to wear!

We also have step by step instructions on how to make your own mini climate scarf which highlights the world's temperature increase. Access them here: [thewi.org.uk/s/thetimeisnow](http://thewi.org.uk/s/thetimeisnow) or email us for a copy.



# THE EARTH'S ALARM CLOCK IS RINGING.



For far too long, politicians have been pressing the snooze button.

On the day, we want to create a noise that cannot be ignored.

At 2pm, whilst we are gathered in the lobby line, we are going to set off as many alarm clocks as possible. By doing so, we will send a message to Westminster that they need to wake up and respond to the challenges our beautiful world is facing.

We need your help to make this possible.

If you have a portable alarm clock at home, please bring this with you on the day and schedule it to go off at 2pm. And if you don't, don't worry — you can use your phone!

Together, let's send a message to Parliament that The Time is Now for action.

## GETTING READY FOR THE BIG DAY

### INVITE YOUR MP

Please let your MP know that you will be at the lobby and you'd like them to come too. We are inviting all MPs but they are most likely to come if they hear from their constituents directly. The earlier you send your MP an invitation the better.

### FIND OUT WHO YOUR MP IS & THEIR CONTACT DETAILS AT PARLIAMENT.UK



Write to them at  
House of Commons,  
Westminster, London,  
SW1A 0AA



Email them using  
our template email.  
Find this at  
[thetimeisnowmap.co.uk](http://thetimeisnowmap.co.uk)



Ring the parliamentary  
switchboard on  
020 7219 3000 and  
ask to be put through  
to their office

MPs are very busy so if you don't hear back from them do follow up with their office by giving them a call. If you do hear from your MP please let us know they will be coming to the lobby so we can look out for them on the day. Email us at [campaigns@theclimatcoalition.org](mailto:campaigns@theclimatcoalition.org)

### HAS YOUR MP INDICATED THEY CAN'T MAKE IT?

Come along on the day anyway! There will be lots going on for you to get involved in, and other MPs attending need to see a diverse crowd and strength in numbers.

Head to St John's Smith Square where you'll have the opportunity to fill out a 'green card'. Your green card will be passed to one of the attendants in the central lobby who will give it to your MP to let them know that you came.



### REACH OUT TO OTHERS

Encourage others — your friends and family, colleagues, local groups, place of worship, book club — to take part in the day. They don't have to be 'political' types or to have done anything like this before. This is an event for everyone!

If MPs meet a whole range of people it will show them that climate change and the environment are mainstream issues that affect all of us — young and old, all races and religions, across the political spectrum.



### TELL THE MEDIA

Your local media — newspapers, radio and news websites — always want to know about local people doing interesting things!

Phone them, tweet them or send them a press release. Tell them that you are heading to London to tell politicians that The Time Is Now for action on climate change and the environment.

You can find a sample press release on our website — [thetimeisnowmap.co.uk](http://thetimeisnowmap.co.uk)

### GETTING THERE

Some organisations will be organising transport. Visit [thetimeisnowmap.co.uk](http://thetimeisnowmap.co.uk) to see if anything is arranged from your area so far (this will be updated regularly.)

If you are organising a coach please email [campaigns@theclimatcoalition.org](mailto:campaigns@theclimatcoalition.org) so we can organise a drop off and pick up space for you.

### USE OUR NATIONAL EXPRESS CODE 'CCL2019' FOR 25% OFF YOUR JOURNEY TO THE LOBBY ON 26TH JUNE

Redeem the code at [theclimatcoalition.org/thetimeisnow/nationalexpress](http://theclimatcoalition.org/thetimeisnow/nationalexpress)

The National Express code can be used anywhere on the National Express network to London Victoria Coach Station. A maximum of 5 tickets can be booked per transaction. This code should only be used by people attending the lobby.



Transport for London have a useful travel planner with details of buses, trains and tube services, routes for walking and cycling, and accessibility advice. Check out their website: [tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey](http://tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey)



### WHAT ABOUT SAFETY?

The organisers of the event are working closely with police to make the event as safe as possible. The event will have a festival atmosphere and will be family friendly. There will be stewards and security at the event in order to make it as safe and enjoyable as possible. In the event of an emergency follow steward and police instructions and remove yourself from any situation where you feel unsafe.

The lobby is entirely legal and a democratic right. We are not planning or asking you to take part in any civil disobedience. The lobby is taking place in pedestrian zones and will not cause any road blockages. The police know that we will be there and are working with us to keep everybody safe.

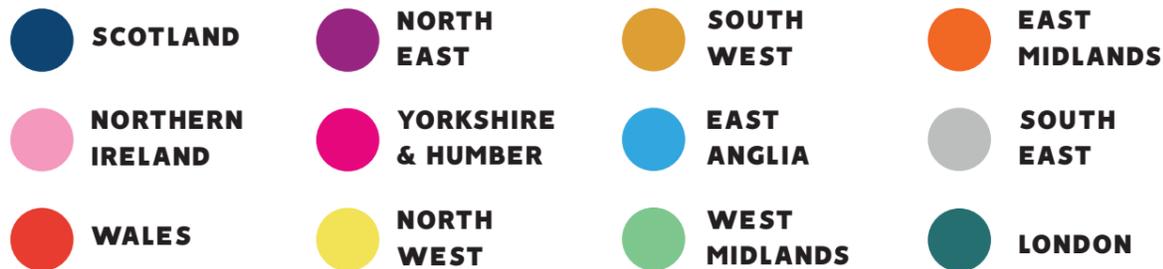
## MEETING MPS EN MASSE!

Talking to our MPs is the main focus of the day. Let's make sure we use this opportunity to tell them they need to take action to end our contribution to climate change and start building a cleaner, healthier and safer world for nature and people. Don't forget your MP is there to represent you and their own constituents!

### FIND YOUR SPOT

The line will be divided into constituencies and we will fill the pavements around Parliament. See page 4 for the map.

Constituencies will be lined up in alphabetical order within nations or regions, which you'll be able to spot by looking out for the colour-coded signs listed below. Our stewards will help you find your place and you can use the map on page 4 to help you. Make sure to allow yourself enough time to find your place.



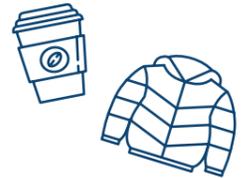
### WHEN WILL I SEE MY MP?

When contacting your MP, let them know they should come and meet you between 1pm and 4pm outside in the lobby line. If your MP suggests to meet you elsewhere, let them know you want to meet them at the lobby so they can see 10,000 people backing urgent action on climate change and the environment. Please let us know if your MP is still insistent on meeting elsewhere by emailing us at [campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org](mailto:campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org)

MPs will be met outside Parliament and directed to where you and their other constituents will be. However, make sure you give your MP your mobile number in advance in case they need to contact you on the day.

Ensure you're with your constituency group by 1pm to avoid missing your MP. You may want to ask your MP for the estimated time they plan to come and meet you.

### COME PREPARED



You may have a bit of a wait in the lobby line! We'll do our best to keep you entertained, but do bring food and water, and anything you need to keep comfortable such as raincoats and portable stools. This will be a family friendly event but please ensure your children have your contact details on them in case of an emergency. If you have any issues on the day there will be plenty of stewards around to assist you.

While you're in the line, we suggest meeting fellow constituents and agreeing how to run the meeting with the MP so that everyone gets a chance to speak, and the MP gets time to respond.

### IF YOUR MP DOESN'T SHOW UP ON THE 26TH JUNE



Your MP should turn up if they have confirmed this with you, however there is a chance their plans will change at the last minute.

You can call their offices when you arrive to let them know you are in line by phoning the MP switchboard (020 7219 3000) and ask to be put through to the MP's office. If they don't turn up, tweet them to ask why they're not there! Be sure you use **#TheTimesNow**. You can also email them afterwards using the template available on [thetimeisnowmap.co.uk](http://thetimeisnowmap.co.uk), expressing why you attended the lobby and requesting a meeting at your constituency surgery.

### WHEN YOU MEET YOUR MP

You may only have a short time with your MP so make the most of it! We will send out a briefing with key talking points to raise to your MP. If you are coming to the WI pre-meet there will be a chance to ask any questions about what we are calling for.

### FOLLOW UP

We want this to be more than one moment in time. MPs need to be consistently held to account to ensure they are taking your concerns seriously and acting on them. Ask them on the day for commitments and deadlines, then contact them after the lobby to follow up on these.



  
Send them a follow up email



  
Arrange a meeting at their constituency surgery



  
Call their office to ask for a progress update



  
Tweet them images from the day and a reminder to take action

## FEEDBACK

Please remember to let us know how your meeting goes! This is very important as the conversations with your MP are valuable and will inform how you can continue to work with them in the future. Please make sure you take note of any comments on questions your MP raises and pass them onto us so we can support you with next steps.

Please email Sophie at [s.page@nfwf.org.uk](mailto:s.page@nfwf.org.uk) or call 020 7371 9300 ext 238 with your feedback.

## TOP TIPS FOR SPEAKING WITH YOUR MP

### MAKE IT PERSONAL AND SPEAK AUTHENTICALLY

Tell them your personal story. What led you to feel passionately about this and why are you here today?

### BE CONFIDENT!

You don't need to be an expert but make sure you are clear that you care about these issues and demand action.

### TALK ABOUT THE REAL WORLD AND NOT ABSTRACT IDEAS

Use meaningful and emotive words. Make it local and emphasise how you have noticed the environment change in your own lifetime.

### LEAD WITH WHAT YOU KNOW

Emphasise the consensus that human activity is changing the climate, destroying the natural environment and affecting people's livelihoods; they can't argue with facts!

### ENCOURAGE OTHERS!

Remember there will be a group of you chatting to your MP so encourage others to speak and make sure everyone's views are heard.

### DON'T FORGET TO GIVE THE MP TIME TO RESPOND TO YOUR DEMANDS

But be clear what you are asking them to commit to. Everyone likes to have a good conversation but ultimately we are here to ask our MPs to take action, so don't leave without getting some commitments.

**VISIT [THETIMEISNOWMAP.CO.UK](https://www.thetimeisnowmap.co.uk) FOR DETAILED BRIEFINGS, MORE ADVICE ON SPEAKING TO YOUR MP, AND TO FIND OUT ABOUT ANY OF THE ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THIS GUIDE**



## SOCIAL MEDIA



For all you Twitter-savvy members, the hashtag for the lobby is **#TheTimeisNow** and remember to tag **@WomensInstitute** and **@TheCCoalition** in your Tweets. Find out what your MP's Twitter username is so you can directly Tweet them.

Remember to take lots of photos and try to get a photo with your MP on the day. Tweet, email or call your MP prior to the lobby to remind them to join you on the day.

### HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTED TWEETS:



Before 26th June:

**I HAVE SIGNED UP TO @THECCOALITION #THETIMEISNOW MASS LOBBY FOR THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT WITH @WOMENSINSTITUTE ON THE 26 JUNE. SEE YOU THERE @[TAG YOUR MP'S TWITTER HANDLE]**

**@WOMENSINSTITUTE MEMBERS ARE COMING TOGETHER ON 26 JUNE TO TELL POLITICIANS #THETIMEISNOW FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION.**

**I AM PART OF THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AS PART OF @THECCOALITION WHO WILL DEMAND ACTION FROM POLITICIANS ON 26 JUNE. #THETIMEISNOW FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION.**

On the day:

**I AM AT @THECCOALITION #THETIMEISNOW MASS LOBBY FOR THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT WITH @WOMENSINSTITUTE. I WILL BE MEETING @[TAG YOUR MP'S TWITTER HANDLE] TO DISCUSS CLIMATE CHANGE AND PLASTIC POLLUTION.**

**80% OF @WOMENSINSTITUTE CLIMATE AMBASSADORS ARE MOST CONCERNED WITH THE CHALLENGE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL FACE FROM CLIMATE CHANGE. #THETIMEISNOW FOR A STRONG NET-ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET. WILL @[TAG YOUR MP'S TWITTER HANDLE] YOU SUPPORT IT?**

**WE NEED ACTION FROM GOVERNMENT IF WE ARE TO END THE PLASTIC TIDE. #THETIMEISNOW FOR A PLASTIC POLLUTION ACTION PLAN! WILL @[TAG YOUR MP'S TWITTER HANDLE] YOU SUPPORT IT?**

After 26th June:

**THANK YOU @[TAG YOUR MP'S TWITTER HANDLE] FOR MEETING ME TODAY. #THETIMEISNOW FOR YOU TO ACT AND ENSURE THE UK REMAINS AT THE FRONT OF GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS AND TACKLE PLASTIC POLLUTION.**

# THE TIME IS NOW



**THETIMEISNOWMAP.CO.UK**  
**#THETIMEISNOW**

**CAMPAIGNS@THECLIMATECOALITION.ORG**  
**020 7870 2213**