

**BRITAIN
STRONGER
IN
EUROPE**

**10 GREEN REASONS
FOR REMAINING IN
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Being in Europe magnifies Britain's voice in the world on the issues that will define our future. Climate change and the future of our environment is a defining issue of our generation.

Our environment at home is a source of joy and wellbeing for many, but also a vital resource. Its multiple habitats, features and species must be protected.

Our global climate must be safeguarded to prevent against further global warming, and collective action is the only solution to rising seas and rising temperatures.

The European Union is central to both these challenges.

Here at home, EU action is helping to improve air quality, brings vital protections for Britain's nature and wildlife, and provides investment in renewable energy to bring down emissions.

Internationally, the EU is a leader in the battle to secure binding agreements on climate action. The EU's own Emissions Trading Scheme was the first international system for trading emissions allowances and Europe has been at the forefront of environmental milestones, from the UN Climate Convention, the Kyoto Protocol to the Paris Agreement last year.

And let's not forget that Europe's global leadership on the environment brings domestic economic rewards with EU investment creating jobs in our renewables sector.

Those campaigning for Britain to leave Europe cannot be trusted on the environment. They have opposed vital green measures and denounced climate change as "mumbo jumbo". They demonstrate a cavalier ignorance about climate matters which embodies the extreme and out-dated outlook of those who want to leave.

If Britain leaves Europe, our environment, our wildlife and our global habitat will be starved of investment, bereft of protections and denied the leadership it needs.

With the added clout of 27 other member states we can tackle environmental problems like preventing trade in illegally logged timber, and preventing commercial whaling, and cracking down on the black market trade in ivory and rhino horn.

Out of Europe, our legacy to future generations will not just be a Britain that is weaker and worse off but a global environment that is under threat.

That is why we are backing Britain Stronger In Europe, which is putting environment at the heart of our campaign.

Ed Miliband

Caroline Lucas

Ed Davey

Liz Truss

10 GREEN REASONS FOR REMAINING IN EUROPE

1. The EU boosts the UK's green economy, which brings jobs and growth to Britain

- Companies in the green business sector are major exporters. Being in Europe's single market means free access to over 500 million customers, facing no tariffs or trade barriers for exports to 27 other European countries.
- The EU as a whole vowed to cut greenhouse gases by at least 40% by 2030. The EU's 2020 targets for renewable energy have helped to boost investment in the green economy, and the extension to 2030 will deliver similar benefits for the UK.ⁱ

2. EU action to keeps our oceans clean and protects ocean wildlife

- Between 2014 and 2020, the EU will provide €160.5 million in funding to fight pollution at seaⁱⁱ. This is administered through the European Maritime Safety Agency, which in the UK provides technical and scientific assistance to maritime authorities, monitors pollution levels and ship and cargo traffic.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The EU has banned the hunting and capture of whales and dolphins, and selling any whale or dolphin products is illegal in the EU.^{iv}
- The EU also forbids the hunting and killing of seals (with exemptions only for indigenous communities).^v
- Thanks to UK leadership we have ended the wasteful practice of throwing away perfectly healthy fish [discard ban]. Through EU countries working together we have brought back fish species such as cod and haddock from the brink back to sustainable levels.

3. EU action is helping to improve air quality

- Across Europe, EU action has set minimum standards for pollutant emissions from engines in cars and machinery, improving air quality and reducing harmful emissions.^{viii}
- Air quality - In the UK, 35-50% of the concentrations of fine particulate matter – the main cause of death from air pollution - are from emissions in other European countries. Working with our European partners we have significantly reduced such harmful emissions. Since 1990: small particulate matter down 34%; nitrogen oxides down 54%; sulphur emissions down 87%.
- The UK is part of the EU's Single European Sky regulation, which introduced European-wide environment performance targets to ensure environmentally friendly performance of aeroplanes.^{viii}

4. The EU invests in renewable energy, helping us ensure a more sustainable future

- EU investment helps finance green projects in the UK. Under the €850m EU Life+ programme, Britain received a total backing of £42m for 11 UK environment projects in the areas of environment policy, nature and biodiversity.^{ix} Furthermore, the EU's Eco Innovation programme to support innovation and competitiveness of SMEs funds 48 environmental projects in the UK^x. Aside from the environmental benefits, the projects generate revenue far greater than the original investment and also stimulate employment, with an average of 8 jobs are created, including through the projects' supply chain.^{xi}

5. The EU is leading the fight against climate change, the biggest challenge facing all of us

- The EU has committed to spending at least 20% of its £743bn budget between 2014-2020 on direct action to protect our climate and combat global warming. This funding is additional to that provided by the individual member states.^{xii}
- Within the EU, the UK is bound to generate 15% of its energy from renewable sources, and to reduce its energy consumption by 20% until 2020.^{xiii} The EU helps Britain implement these targets through providing expertise and guidance, enabling the UK to draw on the best renewable energy practices and sustainable technologies across the continent. Thanks to these efforts, 23 EU countries are expected to meet their national 2020 target.^{xiv}
- The EU's Emissions Trading Scheme is a key tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from industries across Europe at the lowest cost. The scheme was the first – and by far the biggest – international system for trading emissions allowances, covering more than 11,000 power stations and industrial plants, as well as airlines. Several independent studies have shown that the scheme reduced emissions by up to 5% in its first two years alone^{xv}, and it is estimated that it will lower emissions by 21% by 2020.^{xvi}
- The EU leads this global effort by example: according to the European Environment Agency, greenhouse gas emissions in Europe decreased by 23% between 1990 and 2014 and reached the lowest levels on record.^{xvii}

6. The EU has led the way on global climate agreements for thirty years, and our membership amplifies Britain's voice in leading global action on climate change

- The EU was at the forefront of delivering the historic Paris Agreement, which secured the goal of keeping global average temperature rises under 2 degrees Celsius. The Agreement was signed by 176 states.^{xviii}
- The EU influences decision-making at the highest level of policy-making on climate. It has been at the forefront of developing milestone agreements to fight climate change, including the UN Climate Convention in 1992, and the 1997 Kyoto Protocol which made cutting greenhouse gas emissions legally binding for 192 countries around the world.^{xix}

7. The EU brings vital protections for Britain's nature and wildlife

- The Wild Birds Directive and Habitats Directive protects birds in Britain and across the EU by setting out protections to protect their natural habitat. The British Ecological Society has found that bird species that are protected under the Directive fare better than those that are not on the list, and the WWF and Open Europe have credited the Directive for driving improvements in protection of wildlife and habitats across the EU.^{xx}
- The EU has set requirements on assessment and management of noise levels at airports and for motor vehicles, which reduces noise pollution in residential areas and protects birds and other wild animals.^{xxi}
- In the UK, 620 Special Conservation Areas benefit from protection under EU law, covering 8,013,467 hectares of British nature.^{xxii}

8. The EU stands up against the killing of endangered species and for animal rights worldwide

- The EU's Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking enables joint cooperation to tackle wildlife crime inside the EU, while at the same time strengthening the EU's role in the global fight against wildlife trafficking. The plan focuses on enforcement, prevention and judicial cooperation, and is implemented through the EU External Action Service and Europol.^{xxiii}
- Among the species protected by the Action Plan are elephants, rhinos, tigers and great apes.^{xxiv}

9. Within the EU, Britain has access to environmental expertise and info from across Europe

- Through our EU membership, Britain is also part of a number of forums and impact assessment frameworks that provide accurate environmental data and information across EU member states. These include
 - o The European Environment Agency^{xxv}
 - o The European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register^{xxvi}
 - o Environmental assessment schemes for construction projects^{xxvii}^{xxviii}
 - o And the Framework for the production of statistics on generation, recovery and disposal of waste.^{xxix}

10. Lastly, why not let the experts explain it themselves?

"While far from perfect, EU membership has greatly benefited the UK's nature and the environment."

Friends of the Earth^{xxx}

"Britain's membership of the EU has delivered benefits for our environment that would be hard to replicate in the event of the UK leaving."

Ben Stafford, Head of Public Affairs, WWF^{xxxi}

"I believe the UK should stay in the EU (...) Whether you care about wildlife protection or sewage in our oceans and on our beaches - the EU has played a leading role in making sure that the UK keeps to a high standard of environmental protection."

John Sauven, Executive Director, Greenpeace UK^{xxxii}

BRITAIN STRONGER **IN** EUROPE

“EU measures have led to improvements in the UK environment that would not have occurred under pre-existing UK laws, and have set precedents for subsequent UK legislation.”

British Ecological Society^{xxxiii}

“It is important to recognise that EU legislation has delivered very significant environmental improvements.”

Energy UK^{xxxiv}

“Through the EU, the UK has greater influence on global climate negotiations, owing to the combined economic power, population and emissions of the European Community.”

Sandbag Climate Campaign^{xxxv}

“It is the view of The Wildlife Trusts that EU membership has led to a cleaner and healthier UK environment; has provided the business community with the opportunity to shape regulation at the European level and to pursue the competitive advantage that progressive environmental policies in a Single Market can afford. We also believe that EU membership has provided the UK with a leadership platform on a European and international level on environmental matters and has given us a platform to manage common resources such as our climate and common impacts such as air and water pollution.”

The Wildlife Trusts^{xxxvi}

“A British exit from the EU would be a mistake for sustainability in the UK. The EU is far from perfect but the regulation coming from the EU in myriad areas - around water and air quality to name a few - has helped to steer the UK out of a polluted post-industrial era and into – broadly speaking – one at least a little more on track towards sustainability.”

James Goodman, Director of Futures, Forum for the Future^{xxxvii}

10 REASONS YOU CAN'T TRUST LEAVE CAMPAIGNERS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Vote Leave have proposed scrapping a key set of EU environmental protection rules:

“EU red tape and legislation is also very expensive. Damaging rules often come from lobbying by big multinational corporations trying to eliminate competition from entrepreneurs and small businesses. EU regulation costs UK businesses over £600 million every week.”^{xxxviii}

The following regulations are among those criticised by Vote Leave:

- The UK renewable energy strategy
- The EU Climate and Energy Package
- The Water Environment Regulations
- The Motor Fuel Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Regulations
- Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations
- The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme
- The Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations
- The Environmental Permitting Regulations
- Eco-design directive
- Replacement of Catalytic converters and pollution control devices
- Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
- Air Quality Standards
- Control of Asbestos Regulations
- Environmental Damage prevention and remediation regulations
- The Animal Welfare Order
- Plant Health Regulations^{xxxix}

2. Vote Leave's Nigel Lawson called climate change “mumbo jumbo”, and Daniel Hannan agrees with him

“Climate change: this is not science – it's mumbo jumbo”

Nigel Lawson, Telegraph, 28 September 2013^{xl}

“Climate change has become a new religion.” “Climate is warming very little at present, if at all, and nobody knows if it will in the future”

Nigel Lawson, 21 September 2015^{xli}

Dan Hannan said that when it comes to climate change he agrees with Nigel Lawson, and has said he is a “sceptic” about climate change^{xlii}

3. Douglas Carswell has said the Climate Change Act is “fatuous”

[The Climate Change Act is a] “fatuous attempt to ‘stop global warming”
Douglas Carswell, 25 February 2013^{xliii}

4. Ruth Lea (Business for Britain London Council), wrote for the TPA in 2008 (under Elliott leadership)

“Scrapping the expensive and ineffective EU renewables policy would provide a significant and welcome break for British taxpayers.”

Ruth Lea, The EU’s Renewables Policy: Official Cost Estimates to Britain, 11 December 2008^{xliv}

5. Vote Leave’s David Campbell-Bannerman calls warnings about global warming “enviro-imperialism”

“It is clear now that the scientific consensus on man-made global warming is vast eroding (...) I worry about a drift towards green tariffs justified on the basis of such spurious claims. (...) This is just enviro-imperialism.”

David Campbell Bannerman, 25 November 2009^{xlv}

6. Vote Leave’s Owen Paterson says warnings about climate change are “exaggerated”

“The forecast effects of climate change have been consistently and widely exaggerated thus far.”

Owen Paterson, 15 October 2014^{xlvi}

7. Vote Leave donor^{xlvii} Stuart Wheeler has even founded a think-tank to “expose false claims” about climate change

Stuart Wheeler founded Trust, a policy of which was to 'exposure of false claims' about global warming^{xlviii}

8. GO Movement’s Peter Bone took initiative to introduce a bill to abolish the Department of Energy and Climate Change^{xlix}

9. UKIP’s manifesto says: “The climate change act is doing untold damage. UKIP will repeal it.”^l

10. ... and we know UKIP don’t even understand what renewable energy or emissions are:

UKIP’s Victoria Ayling famously asked: “What happens when renewable energy runs out?”^{li}

UKIP’s Stuart Agnew, in the European Parliament, said that “decarbonising Europe” is madness, because without carbon dioxide the plants would not have anything to grow with^{lii}

BRITAIN STRONGER IN EUROPE

Notes

- ⁱ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/279198/environment-climate-change-evidence-all.pdf
- ⁱⁱ Regulation 911/2014: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:200603_2&rid=1
- ⁱⁱⁱ <http://emsa.europa.eu/emsa-documents/latest/item/2494-facts-figures-2014.html>
- ^{iv} <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=URISERV%3A128198>
- ^v <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32009R1007>
- ^{vi} Directive 2010/75/EU: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:200505_1&rid=1
- ^{vii} Regulation 510/2011: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:mi0082&rid=6>
- ^{viii} Regulation 549/2004: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:l24020&rid=5>
- ^{ix} http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/press/frontpage/2014/14_38_en.htm
- ^x http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/projects/en/project-search?f%5B1%5D=search_api_combined_1%3AGB
- ^{xi} https://ec.europa.eu/easme/sites/easme-site/files/infographics_eco-innovation-final-HR.pdf
- ^{xii} http://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/eu/index_en.htm
- ^{xiii} <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/the-legal-landscape/european-union-legislation/>
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- ^{xxi} Directive 2002/49/EC: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:l21180&rid=1>
- ^{xxii} <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-23>
- ^{xxiii} <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2016:87:FIN>
- ^{xxiv} <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2016:87:FIN>
- ^{xxv} Regulation 401/2009: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:ev0019&rid=3>
- ^{xxvi} Regulation 166/2006: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:l28149&rid=1>
- ^{xxvii} Directive 2011/92/EU: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:ev0032&rid=1>
- ^{xxviii} Directive 2001/42/EC: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:l28036&rid=6>
- ^{xxix} Regulation 2150/2002: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=URISERV:l28082&rid=3>
- ^{xxx} <https://www.foe.co.uk/page/eu-referendum-environment>
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- ^{xxxviii} http://www.voteleavetakecontrol.org/briefing_cost
- ^{xxxix} https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=http://openeurope.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Open_Europe_Top100_costliest_EU_regulations.pdf
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- ^{xli} <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fxv5i1fSKnc>
- ^{xlii} <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/danielhannan/100018669/climate-change-the-case-for-scepticism/>
- ^{xliiii} <http://www.talkcarswell.com/home/i-was-wrong-about-the-climate-change-act/2607>
- ^{xliv} <https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/taxpayersalliance/pages/295/attachments/original/1427450573/eurennewablescost.pdf?1427450573>
- ^{xlv} <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxrz2yvFIG8>
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- ^{xlvii} http://www.voteleavetakecontrol.org/stuart_wheeler_matched_donations
- ^{xlviii} <http://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/news/local/new-party-leader-squares-up-to-mp-barker-1-1389331>
- ^{xlix} <http://www.thegwpf.com/uk-parliament-to-debate-abolition-of-department-of-energy-and-climate-change/>
- ⁱ <https://issuu.com/ukip/docs/theukipmanifesto2015?e=16718137/12380620>
- ⁱⁱ <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/feb/19/ukip-candidate-renewable-energy-runs-out>
- ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1iN6gqOsak>

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