

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 0AA

cc:

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP,
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP,
Secretary of State for Transport

7 September 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you as a group of UK businesses deeply committed to supporting the UK's transition to a prosperous low carbon economy.

We commend you on your declaration to put the UK at the 'forefront of a 21st century transport revolution'. We also welcome the ambition set out in the recent Road to Zero strategy and Automated and Electric Vehicles Act 2018, and we anticipate a strong package of policies solidifying this ambition at the Zero Emission Vehicle Summit on Tuesday.

UK Industry stands ready to support a rapid transformation of the vehicles on our roads, a vital step towards meeting national commitments following the Paris Agreement. As businesses, we recognise that environmental protection offers much more opportunity than burden for the UK economy. Nowhere does this ring truer than in the deployment of zero emission vehicles as we clear the air on our streets and meet our climate change ambition. Yet, according to latest figures, UK sales of zero emission vehicles are down 0.6% year-on-year.

To address this, we encourage your government to:

- Accelerate ambition for the phase-out of new petrol and diesel vehicles, ensuring the UK is confident in its leadership in the 21st century transport revolution.
- Eliminate short term barriers for EV uptake by bringing the 2% company car benefit-in-kind tax rate forward to 2019/20, to address the cliff-edge that is disincentivising zero-emission uptake before 2020/21.
- Ensure market readiness to meet our current and growing demand through supportive electric vehicle sales targets and policies.

Taking the right action now would show clear global leadership – supporting an efficient workforce transition, encouraging industry development and enabling the UK to continue to be a leading market for low carbon transport.

We hope to hear your response to this letter and would like to assure you of our readiness to realise a prosperous and low carbon UK.

Yours sincerely,

Zelda Bentham, Group Head of Sustainability, Aviva

Howard Porter, Chief Executive, BEAMA

Andy Bradley, Director, Delta Energy & Environment

Simon Crowfoot, Board Director, Ecotricity Group Ltd

Lawrence Slade, Chief Executive, Energy UK

Gareth Davis, Head of EV Solutions, ESB

Trevor Hutchings, Director of Strategy and Communications, Gemserv

Doug Stewart, Chief Executive, Green Energy UK

Toby Ferenczi, Director of Strategy, OVO Energy

Erik Fairbairn, Chief Executive, Pod Point

Hugh McNeal, Chief Executive, RenewableUK

Fiona Bell, Head of Responsible Business, Sky

Chris Hewett, Chief Executive, Solar Trade Association

Julia Barrett, Director of Sustainable Development, Willmott Dixon

Jonathan Hampson, General Manager, Zipcar UK



The businesses in this letter were convened by WWF-UK, please reply to:

Tony Juniper, Executive Director of Advocacy and Campaigns,

WWF, The Living Planet Centre, Rufford House, Brewery Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4LL