

ANDY BURNHAM FOR US

To members of SERA - Labour's Environment Campaign,

We face urgent challenges from climate change which present significant environmental, economic and social challenges too. More frequent extreme weather, rising temperatures and increasing pressure on our natural environment demands action. That action needs to include building a fairer, greener economy that creates skilled jobs, lowers household bills and strengthens Britain's long-term energy security. I know SERA, which has championed climate and nature leadership in the Labour movement for over 50 years, understands this too.

Only Labour can deliver the approach this moment requires: investing in clean energy, accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels and ensuring that no worker or community is left behind. That means creating well-paid green jobs in every part of the country and giving Britain the opportunity to lead the industries of the future.

By investing in home-grown renewable energy, modernising our infrastructure and backing British innovation, we can reduce our dependence on volatile international energy markets, strengthen our national resilience and cut the cost of living. It is good for our economy, good for our environment and good for our national security.

We must also be prepared to challenge broken models that are failing both people and our environment. From polluted rivers to failing infrastructure, it is clear that essential utilities must be managed differently. Where the current model is not delivering, Labour should be prepared to take greater public control to protect our environment and deliver better value for the public.

For too long, we've treated nature as something separate from our economy and our communities, when in reality it is the foundation of both. Restoring nature is about more than protecting wildlife - it is about creating healthier places to live, tackling the climate crisis, reducing flood risk, improving public health and giving every child the chance to grow up with access to green spaces. By investing in nature recovery, we can create good jobs, strengthen local communities and leave our country in a better condition for the generations that follow.

The change we need must come at every level of government and in every community. As Mayor of Greater Manchester, I have seen what empowered local and regional leadership can achieve. We set an ambitious target for Greater Manchester to become carbon neutral by 2038 and to deliver a fully integrated, zero-emission public transport system by 2030. Greater Manchester is also delivering one of the UK's largest fleets of zero-emission buses, showing how cleaner public transport can reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and make it easier for people to choose sustainable travel.

Alongside that, we invested in the retrofitting of existing homes, supporting the delivery of thousands of affordable net zero homes and creating the conditions for green industries to grow. I want every town, city and region to have the powers and support needed to replicate that success.

Meeting the challenges ahead of us will require partnership between national and local government, businesses, trade unions, communities and campaigners. That is why SERA plays such an important role - helping to convene groups and shape Labour's environmental agenda, ensuring that climate action is rooted in our values of fairness, equality and social justice.

Finally, I would also like to thank everyone in SERA for your support and campaigning in Makerfield in recent months. I know there were members of SERA who came from far and wide to support me and be part of our positive campaign for change - and I am deeply grateful for your friendship and support.

I would be honoured to have the support of SERA to be the next leader of the Labour Party, and would look forward to working with you and drawing on the expertise and experience of your members in the future as we build a cleaner, greener and more prosperous Britain.

Best wishes,

Andy Burnham

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Burnham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Andy" and "Burnham" being capitalized and prominent.